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30-PAGE **DECORATING SECTION**

(cosy up your home!)



party season!

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NOVEMBER 2009



ON THE COVER

Inviting decor and a cosy fire set the scene for relaxed gatherings in this home (page 120)

Photo by Michael Graydon

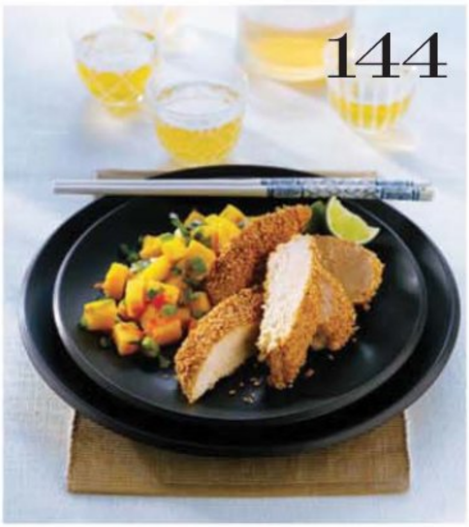


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CANADIAN POSTMASTER: RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO STYLE AT HOME, 25 SHEPPARD AVE. W., SUITE 100, TORONTO, ONT. M2N 6S7. PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT 40064924, PAP REGISTRATION 08282. POSTAGE PAID AT GATEWAY IN MISSISSAUGA, ONT. U.S. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO STYLE AT HOME, BOX 766, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14240-0766. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BUFFALO, N.Y. USPS 731-350.


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party ready

My mom has always loved to entertain. When I was a kid, every Friday night she'd don a long plaid skirt and sleek turtleneck. I loved the outfit, hated the "entertaining." From my perspective, it meant a lot of stress over tidying, fussing with table settings and dressing up. Plus, there always seemed to be some last-minute project – a wall to be painted, a piece of furniture being re-covered, a new tablecloth to be hemmed. Every time my mom got ready for guests, I'd inform her that when *I grew up* I was going to wear jeans, order pizza and serve my guests in front of the TV. I was too young to understand the idea of house pride.

Fast-forward 30 years. One of my favourite pastimes is welcoming friends into my home. While I occasionally wear jeans, we never watch TV (except on Oscar night), and getting the house ready is one of my cherished tasks. My husband, Colin, is the cook, so my domain is everything else. I love pulling out the different glasses, deciding on the flatware, pouring myself a splash of bubbly and lighting the candles. Besides afternoons spent relaxing with a good book in front of the fire, the times I love my house most are when it's filled with people.

No matter what your entertaining style (from jeans to party dresses), this issue is packed with beautiful ideas to make your home fabulously guest-worthy. Cheers!

Jane

Jane Francisco
jane@styleathome.com

This month, Jane has been...

COUNTING DOWN to two weeks relaxing with friends at a villa in Florence.

YEARNING FOR a big handcrafted wood table for my kitchen.

RECONNECTING with my weekly Pilates routine after months of neglect.

ESCAPING from reality with endless hours of *The West Wing* (finally). Next up: *Mad Men*.

TOTING a brand-new jade green Dell Mini, $359, in my handbag. It's no bigger than a pocket book, but I can watch movies – and check my e-mail when I travel!

check out...



PAGE 50
Subtle tones create a dramatic backdrop when patterns and textures are graphic.



PAGE 56
Transform a tired coffee table into colourful new hallway seating!



PAGE 126
Dress your table the way you might never think to dress yourself!

PORTRAIT BY ALVARO GOVEIA. HAIR & MAKEUP BY SIMONE OTIS, ARTISTGROUPLIMITED.COM FOR JOE FRESH BEAUTY

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Learn to fold towels so they look nice & fluffy – like in the magazines.

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Need help deciding what's for dinner tonight?

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I want a new sofa. How do I know what to look for?

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I'm throwing a party & want to set up an at-home bar. Help!

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win this! The New Frigidaire Professional Freestanding Electric Range

Sign up for the *Style at Home* e-newsletter and you'll automatically be entered into our monthly contest for your chance to win great prizes. This month, you could win the Frigidaire Professional Freestanding Electric Range (model CPEF3081KF). It makes preparing meals easy with features like Pro-Select™ Controls, Even Baking Technology and Rapid Clean options. Dinner will be ready in no time! **Retail value: $1,999.** To enter, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/SUBSCRIBE**


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†MSRP of $23,995 on 2010 Legacy 2.5i (AA125). ††Model shown is 2010 Legacy 2.5GT (AA1GTN), MSRP of $38,395. Freight, PDI, license, insurance, registration and taxes are extra.
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THE RUG DEPARTMENT

our contributors



jodi pudge photographer

this issue Table Style (page 84), We Love It! (page 88) **memorable assignment** "I once had to smear mud on a model's backside – I was blushing the whole time, even though the model was in jeans." **couldn't live without** "Photographs. We only have a few pieces of art on our walls, but it's the large photos of places we've visited that make me smile every morning." **party must-have** "Prosecco and good beer." **party tunes** "It's fun putting an iTunes playlist on random – you never know what you're going to get!" **entertaining style** "I love cooking for family and friends. There's so much joy in seeing them love the food you've made."

kathleen dore writer

this issue "Party Central" (page 106). "The homeowner, Michele, is easygoing and generous of spirit. No wonder she and husband Leon entertain so much – they're naturals!" **party must-have** "Grey Goose vodka and Tanqueray gin in the freezer." **party tunes** "I love dance music, but for background music I prefer blues and soul, like Ndidi Onukwulu." **entertaining style** "My favourite way to entertain comes a little later in the season, when our backyard rink freezes – inviting friends over for dinner, a game of shinny on the rink and drinks by the fire." **november evokes...** "Anticipation for the first big snowfall."





michael graydon photographer

new digs "I just moved into a new loft three minutes away from my studio – perfect for days when I'm running late!" **this issue** ReStyle (page 56), "Family Funhouse" (page 120). "I love shooting decor. I stare at the walls of my new place trying to figure out how to decorate – luckily my job offers lots of great inspiration." **upcoming travels** "I'd like to visit my cousin, who moved to Amsterdam last year." **party must-have** "Beer. I'm a simple man." **entertaining style** "I'm not much of an entertainer – yet. Once my new place is set up, I'd love to have a few friends over and try my hand at it, keeping things simple, of course."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID PICARD (PUDGE), JOHN CULLEN (DORE), CARRIE COCKBURN (GRAYDON)

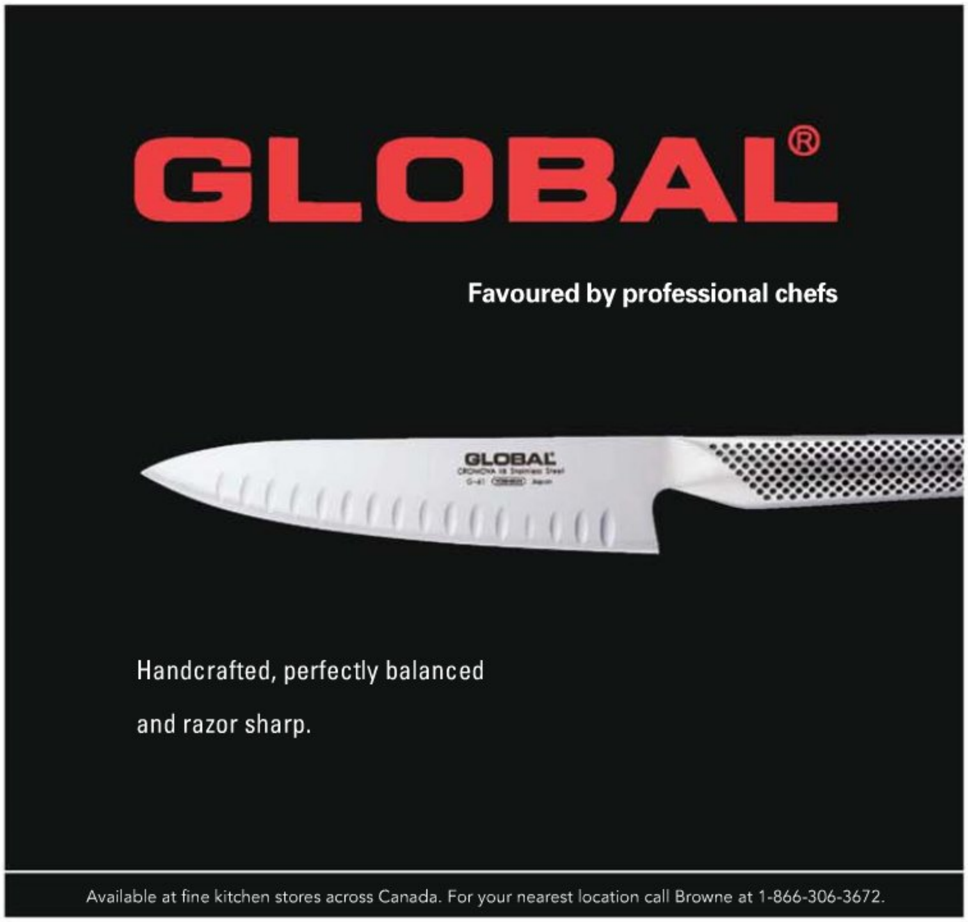
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date with style

Don't miss these design events with *Style at Home* editors and designers



KARL LOHNES

fall trends

Catch contributing style editor Karl Lohnes at the International Home Show on Oct. 10 and 11. Karl will be discussing fall trends and how to easily and economically incorporate them into your home. Tickets to the show are $14 for adults, $10 for seniors, and children aged 8 and under are free. Go to internationalhomeshow.ca for more info.

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, 6900 AIRPORT RD., MISSISSAUGA, ONT.

holiday decorating projects

Karl will be on 104.5 CHUM FM's *All About Style with Marilyn Denis* on Oct. 22 at 8:20 a.m. (ET). He'll talk about last-minute decorating projects that you can do in time for the holidays. The segment can be heard live, or at chumfm.com anytime after the air date.



KIMBERLEY SELDON

seldon's secrets of success

Sign up for *Style at Home* contributing decorating editor Kimberley Seldon's Business of Design professional development workshops. Whether you're a beginner or an industry professional, you can benefit from her patented formula for running a successful design business. Each workshop is $395 plus GST, and includes a light breakfast and lunch. Class size is limited, so register early. For complete details, visit kimberleyseldon.com.

DESIGNER'S WALK, 168 BEDFORD RD., TORONTO
PART 1 OCT. 22 PART 2 OCT. 29 PART 3 NOV. 5

april getaway in los angeles

Design Express is turning 10! To celebrate, Kimberley Seldon invites you all to her hometown – Los Angeles. Home to some of the world's most interesting and diverse architecture, L.A. is brimming with design, style and ideas. You'll hit the beach, walk in the footsteps of celebrities (maybe even spot a few!) and find opportunities for shopping that will leave you breathless. In addition, Design Express: L.A. promises to be a very practical, informative learning opportunity, as you'll have access to exclusive homes and gardens. Complete details are available at kimberleyseldon.com. *April 13 to 18, 2010. Cost: $4,495 + GST. Includes five nights double occupancy with breakfast, luxury coach travel, group activities, all shop-and-learn sessions, and a farewell group dinner. (Airfare is not included. Upgrade to single accommodations for an additional $950.)*

letters



GREAT GUIDE Thank you for putting the "How To Be Your Own Decorator" section in the June 2009 issue. My father and I are renovating our basement rec room from scratch, and this guide is perfect for picking the right paint colour and fabric for the project.
MELANIE BARNETT, OSHAWA, ONT.

GOOD LUCK I wanted to express my congratulations to Gail Johnston Habs for her years heading a terrific magazine. I sincerely hope she enjoys her retirement, although if she is going to be a gardener she will never really be retired – as with decorating, there is always something to do. I have let other subscriptions go but not *Style at Home*. I truly enjoy every issue and look forward to all the great ideas inside. I read it again and again – I always find something new. Keep up the good work! SUSAN CANNING, VIA E-MAIL

SPICE ADVICE I wanted to try the Red Tomato & Garlic Chutney recipe in the September 2009 issue, but the instructions don't advise at which point the spice bag should be added to the rest of the ingredients – at the beginning when you first cook the fruit, or when you add the sugar? Please let me know!
MYRNA MCRAE, VIA E-MAIL



NOTE To clarify the method for Red Tomato & Garlic Chutney in "Summer in a Jar," the spice bag should be added to the pan at the beginning of the recipe, along with the tomatoes, apples, onions, garlic, vinegar and salt. Sorry for the confusion!

WONDERFUL WEBSITE I think your styleathome.com website is absolutely perfect – I love it! It has everything I could think of, plus wonderful links to new and stylish information – things that make you say "Ah!"
LAURIE FRASER, VIA E-MAIL

we love to hear from you! Write to us at letters@styleathome.com, or at *Style at Home*, Letters from Home, 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, Ont. M2N 6S7, or fax us at 416-218-3632.

home&style



rickrack's back!

The '70s fashion fixture takes a sophisticated turn as a detail on luxe lilac bedding.

PEACOCK ALLEY CHARMED COTTON SATEEN QUEEN DUVET COVER AND SHAMS $395, ELTE, 888-276-3583; ELTE.COM.


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schoolhouse chic

A soy candle in a reusable blackboard-finish jar serves double duty as a personalized place card at the table – complete with chalk for your own scrawlings. MINE CHALKBOARD CANDLE $35, GOWANS THE SHOP, TORONTO, 416-922-4546.

not-your-gran's doilies

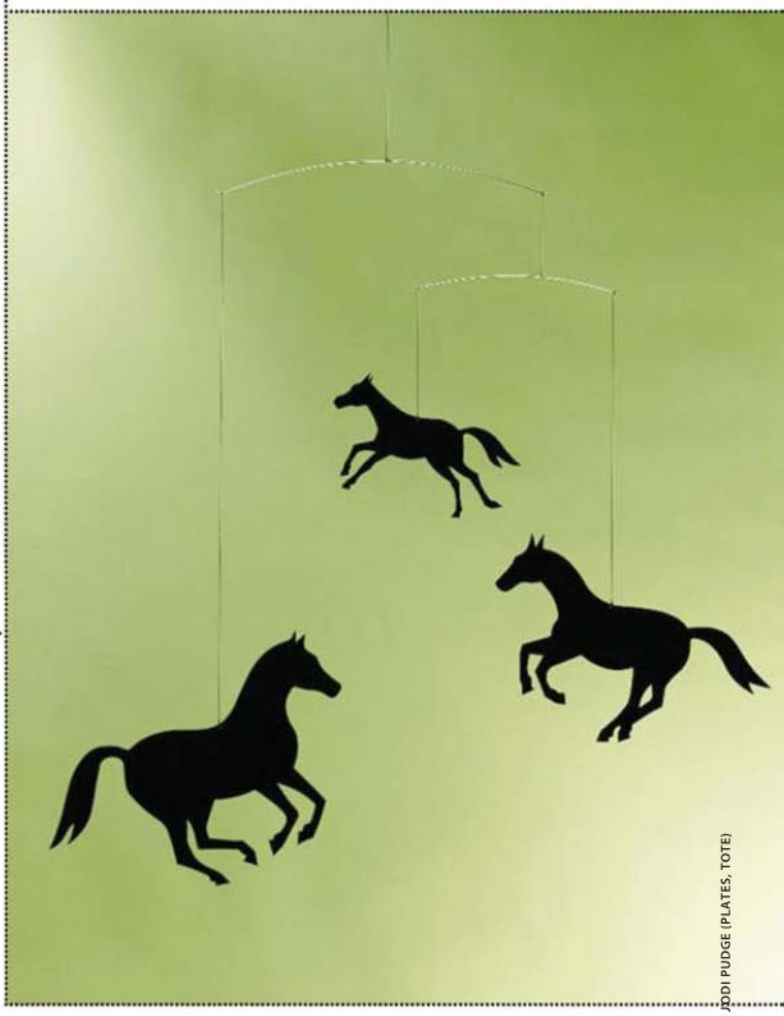
What could be cuter than canapés served on crochet? Ceramic appetizer plates with a doily motif are anything but fussy. TAG ALPINE SNOWFLAKE 7" PLATES $7 EACH, CANDYM ENTERPRISES, 800-263-3551.

dark horses

The mobile isn't just for nurseries anymore! Flensted's gorgeous grown-up silhouettes offer a suspended slice of Danish design on a dime. FLENSTED HORSE MOBILE $27, EURO DESIGN CANADA, 866-932-0261; FLENSTED-MOBILES.COM.

hearth felt

Cosy felt totes make hearthside styling easy, bringing warmth to a fireplace, whether it's lit or not. 14" X 20" X 10" FELT TOTE $15, HOMESENSE, 866-466-3707; HOMESENSE.CA.





PHOTOGRAPHY BY JODI PUDGE (PLATES, TOTE)

For more stylish finds, check out associate design editor Brett Walther's blog at **STYLEATHOME.COM/STYLESLEUTH**


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HOMESENSE
saving is believing
Products shown are representative of merchandise available in stores. Styles may vary by store. © HomeSense 2009

sitting pretty

Anthropologie's spicy take on the folding chair boasts bespoke-look patchwork quilt upholstery, injecting some fun in the functional party staple.







TERAI SHEESHAM WOOD FOLDING CHAIRS IN UPHOLSTERED COTTON $238 EACH, ANTHROPOLOGIE, TORONTO, 416-449-6666; EDMONTON, 780-487-6524; ANTHROPOLOGIE.COM.



dress this room | dining room

Luxe exotic elements play off punches of black and blue in this dynamic palette

By Kimberley Seldon

FOR THE DRAPES HOLLY HUNT GREAT PLAINS COLLECTION VENETIAN GLASS COTTON/SILK IN AZURE $441 PER YARD. CUSTOM BLACK-AND-GOLD FLAT BRAID TRIM WITH TEARDROP CRYSTALS $325 PER METRE.



ON THE CEILING "Beaded glass wallpaper adds sparkle ideally suited to a glamorous dining room. A tip: cut the paper into 18" squares for easier application." MAYA ROMANOFF BEADAZZLED BEADED GLASS WALLCOVERING FROM $292 PER YARD.



ON THE WALLS "This beautiful pale oyster paint imitates pearl and warms the cool blues. I love the exotic Moroccan feel of the scalloped marble – use this as a focal point behind a buffet or bar." BENJAMIN MOORE TAPESTRY BEIGE OC-32 FROM $42 PER GALLON. CLASSIC WHITE COLLECTION CALACATTA MARBLE TEARDROP MOSAIC TILE $26 PER SQ. FT.



ON THE DINING CHAIRS "Upholster the seats of an ebony-finish dining chair in this luxurious cut velvet with a strié ikat pattern. The elegant blue colour gets a dash of drama from the black pleated trim." CLARENCE HOUSE CASTELLO ARAGONESE BEMBERG/COTTON 32184-2 $879 PER YARD.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160



Contributing decorating editor **Kimberley Seldon** dishes out the ingredients for a deliciously detailed dining room.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL HARRISON (WALLPAPER, MOSAIC TILES, CRYSTAL TRIM), PORTRAIT BY GREG DEAN

gorgeous grains

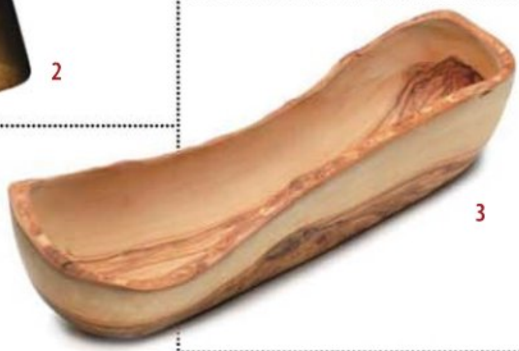
Warm up fall entertaining with the natural beauty of wood. By Julia Armstrong



1



2



3



4

1 acacia appetizer plate It's awkward doing the cocktail party juggling act – a glass in one hand, a plate of hors d'oeuvres in the other. To the rescue: this 4" plate has a rimmed base that fits over most wineglasses. WINEGLASS APPETIZER PLATE $29 PER SET OF FOUR, WILLIAMS-SONOMA, WILLIAMS-SONOMA.CA.

2 sheesham food pedestal Vary heights on a buffet table with this stand made from sheesham, a hardwood from India. LARGE PEDESTAL STAND $39, WEST ELM, TORONTO, 416-537-0110; WESTELM.COM.

3 olive wood bread basket Author and Food Network's *Dolce Vita* celeb chef David Rocco has created his own collection of rustic wares. "Olive wood is beautiful, inspirational, handcrafted, and smells of olives!" says David. DAVID ROCCO'S DOLCE VITA BREAD BASKET $80, BROWNE & CO., 866-306-3672.

4 mango wood salad set With its ultrasmooth walnut finish, this hand-carved bowl has a curvaceous, sculptural form that's echoed in its matching long-handled servers. FLARE BOWL $60, SALAD SERVERS $20, CRATE AND BARREL, 888-657-4108; CRATEANDBARREL.CA.

caring for wood servingware

- After using, immediately wipe clean with damp soft towel, or handwash in warm water with mild soap. (Do not soak or put in dishwasher.)
- Rinse well; let air-dry.
- Apply mineral oil occasionally to prevent drying.

the other "wood"

Though not technically wood, bamboo is a woody plant – and a perennial fave for eco-chic home accents.

safe food prep "I decided to design a board that makes cross-contamination virtually impossible," says Aussie TV chef Curtis Stone. His Flipper sits inside a sturdy frame that prevents slipping and keeps the board from touching the counter. Prepare meat on one side, then simply flip the board over to chop vegetables. CURTIS STONE FLIPPER BAMBOO CUTTING BOARD $80, THE BAY, THEBAY.COM.

store & stack Crafted from burnished bamboo, these stackable canisters have a see-through panel so you know at glance which one holds flour, sugar, oatmeal or rice. 15 CM X 18.5 CM STACKING BAMBOO CANISTERS $28 EACH, EVERYDAY STYLE, 866-378-4331; EVERYDAYSTYLE.COM.





Sample a recipe from *Relaxed Cooking with Curtis Stone* ($38, Clarkson Potter, 2009) at **STYLEATHOME.COM/CURTISSTONE**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL HARRISON (PEDESTAL, APPETIZER PLATE)



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~~His~~ & Hers. (We thought
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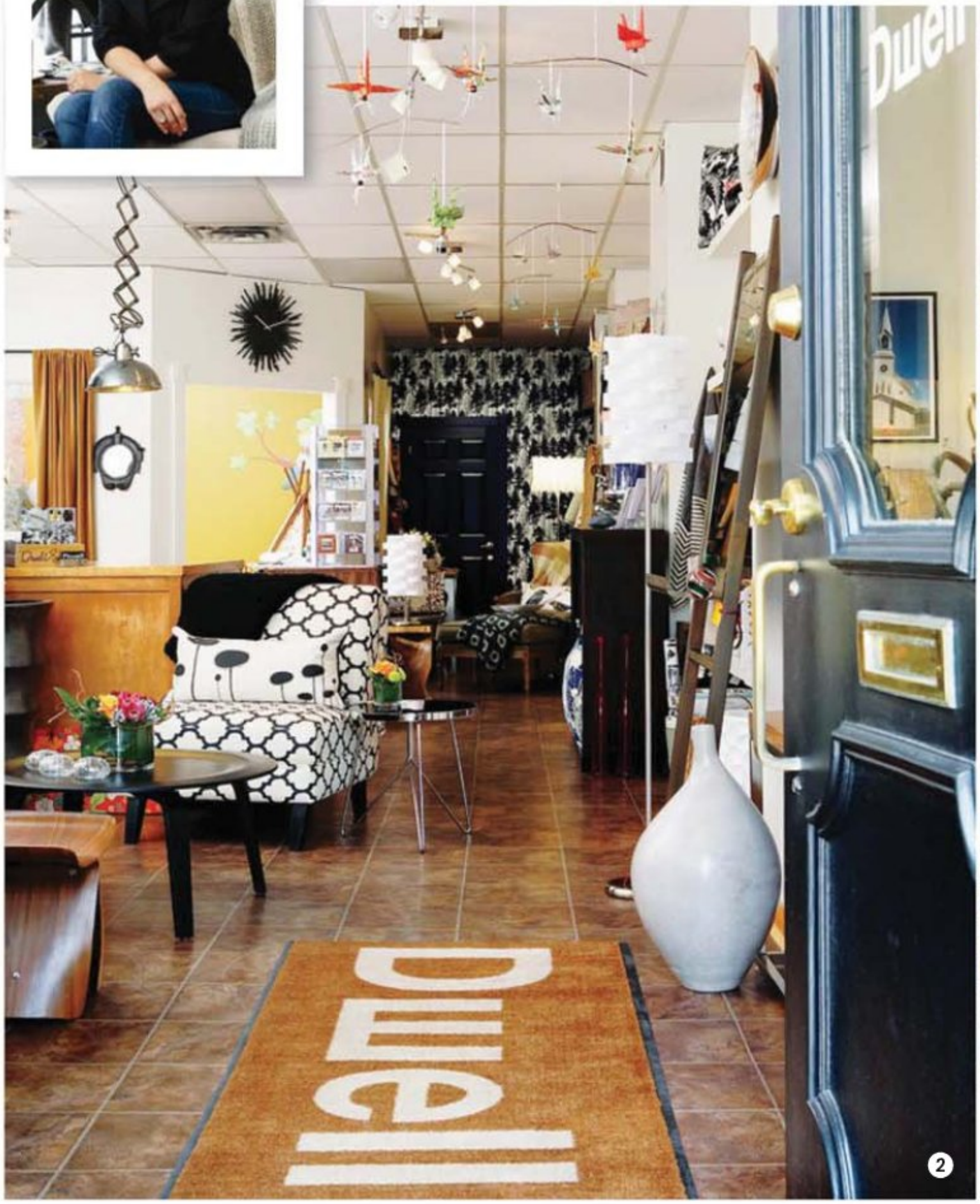
 By Lauren McPhillips



dwell boutique

SHOP OF THE MONTH

Want a modern twist on old-world charm? Look no further than this Kingston boutique





1 OWNER JEN STOREY. 2 G. ROMANO DRAKE CHAIR IN BLACK AND WHITE $850, HILARY COSGROVE ORIGAMI MOBILES $75 EACH. 3 18KARAT SOFA IN GINGER $2,000, G. ROMANO 32" SQUARE WALNUT-AND-STAINLESS STEEL TABLE $850, ARTWORK BY LISA MCLAUGHLIN. 4 EXTERIOR SHOT OF DWELL BOUTIQUE.



THE INSIDE SCOOP Located in one of Canada's oldest cities and nestled in a historic limestone building, Dwell Boutique is the answer to all your contemporary-chic decor prayers. The shop's 1,000 sq. ft. interior is chock full of hot homewares, like 18Karat glass or wood vases, from $30 each, and DwellStudio table linens, from $20. Like what you see but don't have the design determination to put it all together? Owner Jen Storey is also an interior designer and offers a range of design services.

FEELS LIKE HOME Apart from offering affordable cool and kitschy home accessories and furniture, Jen designed the store to be welcoming – like entering her home. "What stands out about Dwell Boutique is the personal experience we offer our customers," she says. "It's unique shopping. Anyone can have beautiful products, but what's that worth if you don't have a friendly atmosphere?"

ECO DWELL-INGS While bringing big-city homewares to the area, Jen is planning an eco-lution for decor in Kingston. "Some of the furniture I sell is made from reclaimed hardwood – like pieces by G. Romano (from $400) – and many of the fabrics are earth friendly as well," she says. "I'm also developing my own line of environmentally responsible furniture, integrating natural elements like wood and wool felt with industrial materials like raw steel. It's important to try to preserve what we have left." *207 Wellington St., Kingston, Ont., 613-542-5425; dwellboutique.ca* →

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL GRAYDON


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davidstea

What Starbucks has done for coffee, new Canadian shop DavidsTea is doing for tea



TEA TREND Move over, lattes and cappuccinos, there's a hot new bevvy in town. Although it's been around for centuries, tea is experiencing a revival in North America, thanks to specialty tea shops like DavidsTea. With over 150 loose-leaf blends available as hot or cold brews, DavidsTea has something for everyone, all contained within laid-back shop environments with a fresh feel. The Canada-wide shops push the community vibe like their coffee counterpart, but adopt a "customer-interaction-keeps-the-business-alive" mantra – 28-year-old founder David Segal even works behind a store counter at least once a month.

A NEW LEAF "I used to like tea, but now I absolutely love it," says David, who stumbled upon the untapped tea-shop industry after a few stints in unrelated entrepreneurships. "The thing is, tea is really good for you – you're drinking lots of water, flushing out toxins and taking in little to no levels of caffeine," he says. "Plus, if you're a coffee fiend, we have teas that contain that coffee taste and kick, but lack the calories and jittery side effects of the real thing."

BEYOND THE CUP The blends from DavidsTea are great as hot beverages in the winter and iced in the summer, but the company likes to look past the typical teapot. "We have a great martini kit that includes glasses, teas and recipes – just add liquor," David says. Tapping into foodies, the DavidsTea e-newsletter also has recipes for including the blends in baked goods and other dishes. *Montreal, Laval, Que., Toronto, Vancouver, 888-873-0006; davidstea.com* →

1 FOUNDER DAVID SEGAL. 2 **BLENDS WE LOVE: COCO CHAI ROOIBOS** (SPICY CHAI WITH COCONUT AND CINAMMON), **CRÈME CARAMEL ROOIBOS** (CREAMY TEA WITH LOTS OF ANTIOXIDANTS), **CREAM OF EARL GREY** (BLACK TEA WITH VANILLA), **EXOTICA** (LEMONGRASS, RED PEPPER, CINAMMON, ORANGE PEEL AND PINEAPPLE), **COFFEE PU-ERH** (CONTAINS COFFEE BEAN EXTRACTS, CHOCOLATE AND CARAMEL).



DAVID'S RASPBERRY TEA COSMO

2 tsp Raspberry Nectar tea
1 cup vodka
½ cup cranberry juice
crushed ice
fresh mint

Add tea leaves to vodka. Infuse overnight, then strain to remove tea leaves. Shake infusion in a martini shaker with cranberry juice and crushed ice. Strain into chilled martini glasses and garnish with a sprig of mint.



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DAY



really fab repro

When Phillippe Lasry and Albert Alloul expanded their furniture manufacturing company to include an 8,000 sq. ft. showroom, the focus was on bringing great-quality design at affordable prices to the public. Sounds like a familiar story – so what makes **KINETIC LIVING CONCEPT** stand out? Well, a lot of their great design comes in the form of fab reproductions of iconic pieces, like leather Barcelona chairs for $799 and Ricla bar stools for $69 a pop. "We can offer better prices because we manufacture the pieces ourselves," says Phillippe. "Most of the items we reproduce are equal in quality to the originals. For example, we often only use the one material, such as polycarbonate, just as the original pieces do." If the lower prices alone don't drive you to check out this Montreal sweet spot (a reproduction of the Louis Ghost chair is only $175!), perhaps the funky surroundings will – the duo are planning on expanding to include a coffee bar and DJ booth for private parties. *1615 Louvain W., 2nd floor, Montreal, 514-383-5888; kinetichome.com*

top-of-the-line tableware

For 25 years, **ATKINSON'S,** in Vancouver's upscale South Granville shopping district, has been the go-to destination for fine china, crystal, silver and linens. In 1984, husband-and-wife owners John and Diane Atkinson sought to meet the need in Western Canada for international luxury lines – years later, it's still a family-owned business known for its large gallery of gorgeous French crystal brands, like Baccarat, Lalique, Saint Louis and Daum. Although Atkinson's offers the cream of the crop, there's something for every budget, with wineglasses going from $10 apiece to several hundred dollars each. *1501 West Sixth Ave., Vancouver, 800-803-0233; atkinsons.ca* – SEEMA PERSAUD



NEW LINES Atkinson's is always scouting the hottest trends, and this fall they've added three new lines. 1) Jars ceramic dinnerware from France. 2) Michael Wainright's porcelain collection of bowls, vases, bread baskets and platters with 24-karat gold and platinum trim. 3) Christofle Silver sterling silver jewelry (yes, from the same company that brings us gorgeous flatware).

ON OUR RADAR Crate and Barrel is set to open its second Canadian location Oct. 7 in Calgary.

decorating



EYE-POPPING COLOURS Bright berry and fresh citrus hues dress up the chairs and sofa in the luxe townhouse suite.

Haymarket Hotel

hotel style

Beautiful guest room ideas from celeb designer Kit Kemp. By Margot Austin



WHO Kit Kemp
HOME BASE London
PROFESSION Design director, Firmdale Hotels
DESIGN TRAINING Self-taught

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF FIRMDALE HOTELS

As design director for Firmdale Hotels in London, England, Kit Kemp is on a campaign to add drama to the bedroom. Each of Firmdale's seven stylish hotels, including the new Crosby Street Hotel in New York City, is a lab for her quirky sense of colour and experimentation with design detail. →



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Crosby Street Hotel

STATEMENT ART (left) A cheeky sunglass-wearing Mona Lisa makes guests grin. **PATTERN PATTER** (below left) Using the same fabric for drapes and cushions is a great decorator trick. **URBAN BRIGHTS** (below right) Fuchsia pops against a palette of greys and blacks.

You're fearless with colour. Why is it so integral to your design?

Kit Kemp I want guests' rooms to be theatrical and memorable. There are no all-white suites. When you live in a grey climate like ours in England, you want to feel happy, and that's what colour does. I love it.

Do you have any advice for novices?

Kit I don't follow any rules per se, but it's all about balance and scale. When you have lots of pattern, counterbalance it with calm areas. Use a similar element or tone throughout a room for consistency. And in a boring space like the hallway, do something mad, such as using a bold pattern.

You have a knack for embellishing rooms with beaded trims, contrasting banding on draperies, and interesting fabric combos. Why is that important?

Kit Trim can turn draperies or a cushion into something special. A small detail can make a world of difference and ensure a room looks extraordinary. Just painting a chair is a lovely gesture that captures your attention.



Crosby Street Hotel



Number Sixteen Hotel

There's no bland art in your rooms. How do you choose pieces that harmonize with your designs but still hold their own?

Kit Staying with a particular subject matter can help you pull a room together by creating a focus. At Number Sixteen, we were into birds. The paintings of large, colourful moths by Australian artist Allyson Reynolds and Jack Milroy's lovely cutout birds in a clear box share the winged-creature motif. →

For 8 great guest room essentials from Kit Kemp, go to **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160**



Catherine Zeta-Jones
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PRETTY PALETTE (above) Create one-of-a-kind art by framing your design storyboard. At Number Sixteen, Kit showcases one outside each room.



UNIQUE CHARACTER (left, below left) Tall padded headboards and multiple fabrics used for both drapery and furniture are Kit Kemp signatures. **PAINT PROJECTS** (below right) Add a pop of colour by painting one piece of furniture, like this night table at the Haymarket Hotel.





If someone doesn't have the budget for large original art, what do you suggest?

Kit An unusual frame can elevate a picture. For example, we use interesting frames made of recycled plastics, actually old mobile phones.

At Number Sixteen, you framed design sample boards and hung them outside rooms as art. Why?

Kit Guests like them because they offer a peek inside the rooms, which are all different. When I'm creating boards, I sometimes arrange samples according to their proportion in the room. When you work those up, you can get a wonderful sense of the balance in a room, which helps you firm up your choices. They're nice to keep and display, too, since a room will change over time. For instance, wouldn't it be so nice to have a sample board of baby's first room? Plus, they look lovely framed, so why not enjoy them?

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small-space changeup

the space Erin and Ryan's open-concept living room and kitchen.

the challenge Newly engaged, the couple wanted to entertain, but needed to marry their styles – she likes curvaceous furniture and glamour, he likes modern, clean lines.

the result A chic space that strikes a balance between romantic and sleek.

By Samantha Pynn, host of HGTV's *Pure Design*



GLAM ORGANIZING The beauty of Schumacher's trellis-pattern wallpaper – printed on forest-friendly paper, backed with potato-based glue – makes the living area the focus of this open-concept condo. IKEA sideboards and white shelving create a perfect mix of display and storage. →

PHOTOGRAPHY BY VIRGINIA MACDONALD. BEFORE SHOT BY JOHN QUEENAN. STYLING BY MALCOLM PATTERSON



Ask Sebastien

Cocktail party season is in full swing! From drinks and canapé ideas to the latest in décor trends, Sebastien Centner, one of Canada's leading home entertaining experts, shares his easy and affordable suggestions for turning your holiday gathering into a stylish affair!

Q: If I'm serving canapés, is there any formula to make sure I have enough?

A: Typically, figure on somewhere between 4 and 6 canapés per person per hour. While it may sound like a lot, you needn't offer more than six different kinds of canapés. And you can cut that number in half if you're serving other food, or if your guests have eaten dinner before arriving or will be eating after the party.

Q: I don't have a lot of time, but I want to impress my guests. Do you have any spectacular quick and easy ideas?

A: Presentation can turn the ordinary into extraordinary. Lollipop canapés are fun and interesting. Basically, any item that can be skewered can be made into a lollipop canapé – from herbed cream cheese wrapped in smoked salmon to white chocolate dipped brownies. Interesting vessels are smart for serving canapés or mini-courses – Asian takeout containers or paper cones in shot glasses are perfect for mingling and reduces dish washing.

TIP: Look around your home for items that can have alternative uses. One great example is a galvanized steel seed starter kit – just clean it up and it makes a perfect self-serve candy station or a sparkling décor piece filled with Febreze Winter Evening & Warmth Candles.

Q: Do you have any ideas for inexpensive and fun parting gifts for guests?

A: Candles make great parting or hostess gifts. Wrap up some Febreze Winter Evening & Warmth Candles to remind guests of the evening spent at your home. Simple frames fitted with silver or colourful paper turn into perfect canapé trays and also make great gifts. Or fill a small container with exotic truffles – the perfect ending to the evening!

TIP: A cozy fire is welcome at holiday gatherings – and so is the comforting scent you can get by using Febreze Winter Evening & Warmth NOTICEables plug in air freshener.





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the palette



CABINETRY
ANTHRACITE IN
MATTE FINISH
ARTCRAFT KITCHENS



STOOLS
ENDURANCE IN PEAR
ROBERT ALLEN



OTTOMAN
KUKULA IN IRIS
ROBERT ALLEN



LOUIS XV-STYLE CHAIR
BRUSSELS LINEN IN LILAC
THREADCOUNT
TEXTILE & DESIGN

HARMONIZING PALETTE

Erin and Ryan's space had a lot of grey, white and black. Their rich, dark kitchen cabinetry, which they had complemented with a grey tile backsplash, became the jumping-off point for my palette. I added shots of lavender and green – colours that appeal to both of them.

INDUSTRIAL CHIC

The ceiling has exposed ducts, so I played up the look with a brushed-aluminum ball fan from The Modern Fan Co.

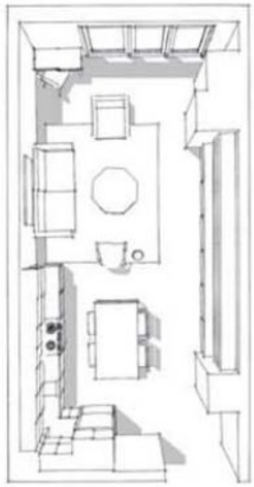
TRIPLE-PURPOSE ISLAND

The couple has an island that serves as a kitchen work surface and breakfast bar. I paired their secondhand stools with two more from IKEA so they can now also use it as a small dining table when entertaining. Their original stools are backless and can easily tuck under the counter when preparing dinner. To unify the set, I painted the legs and covered all four with chartreuse velvet. →


Who knew a room
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At 40" by 40", the ottoman is large enough to serve as a coffee table or extra seating – not to mention put your feet up! When I found this striped fabric, the whole palette just clicked.



534 SQ. FT.

sam's eco picks

BIODEGRADABLE OTTOMAN
Our upholsterer used soy foam for the ottoman. Made from soybean oil, it's a sustainable, renewable alternative to petroleum-based products.

REPURPOSED STOOLS
I made over the couple's hand-me-down bar stools by cutting them to counter height and tying them into the new palette. Fresh paint on the legs (experts at Pro Glo Paints prepared a lacquer matched to Benjamin Moore's Coventry Gray) and new fabric unify the set.

ENERGY-REDUCING FAN
A ceiling fan makes sure cool breezes get to you in summer, so you don't keep cranking up the a/c. In winter, reverse the direction of the fan, so the blades blow air toward the ceiling, pushing down hot air as it rises.
WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160



PORTRAIT BY JOHN QUEENAN. ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT ROGERS

SAMANTHA PYNN, HOST OF HGTV'S *PURE DESIGN*

ABOUT *PURE DESIGN* I take a green approach to decorating. It's Season 2, and my team and I are busy transforming everyday rooms into sustainable living spaces with tons of personality. MY METHOD Rethink what you have, buy vintage, and research green products to make the best choices for you and your family. CHECK OUT MY MAKEOVERS on HGTV Tuesdays at 9 p.m. ET/10 p.m. PT. For more of my style tips, visit hgtv.ca.


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boho-chic bench

the find Less-than-stellar coffee tables are everywhere you look on the secondhand market. I found this one on Craigslist (craigslist.ca) for just $15, and it struck me that it had the right proportions – 17" x 53" – for a hallway bench.

the transformation The suzani-inspired upholstery and bold orange paint finish turn this boring brown table into a fabulous foyer perch. By Kevin Austin



The length is perfect for an entry, at the foot of a bed or in front of a fireplace

INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL GRAYDON









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ADD A CUSTOM CUSHION
Patrick Kennedy of Soft Options Upholstery even made the pattern match from cushion to bench – amazing! This cushion cost just over $150. If budget is tight, you could simply toss one or two ready-made cushions on top.

Tackle this project in one of three ways, according to your time, budget and skill level.

1 Do the painting and upholstery yourself. 2 Paint the piece yourself but have a pro handle the upholstery. (That's what I chose to do, picking the fabric I wanted – Suzani in Sun from Invu Drapery Co.) 3 Take it to an upholsterer who can handle painting and upholstery. He or she can even present you with fabric options if you don't have time to make it to a fabric store. →

made-to-order mixes

Choose a fabric and paint pairing that suits your personal style.

boho chic

A graphic weave inspired by traditional Uzbek textiles meets its paint match in zingy orange.



SUZANI IN SUN
INVU DRAPERY CO.



HOT ORANGE IB67
RALPH LAUREN PAINT

vintage classic

This scheme is to a room what a leopard clutch and black pumps are to an outfit.



FELIDAE IN TRUFFLE
ROBERT ALLEN



SPIKED HEELS P5247-85
PARA PAINTS

geometric mod

Choose this tone-on-tone treatment to make a singular sunny statement.



GROUNDWORKS KELLY WEARSTLER
OMBRE MAZE IN SAFFRON
KRAVET/LEE JOFA SHOWROOM



GOLDEN CHALICE 360D-5
BEHR

quiet stripes

A country-inspired pairing borrows inspiration from traditional French linens.



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CoQ10
GOLD BOND
ULTIMATE
restoring
reconstituante
CoQ10
This stuff really works!
7 moisturizers, vitamins A,C & E plus restoring CoQ10 help skin renew itself





TOP FIX The coffee table's original top had a significant overhang, which I didn't want. I removed the top by unscrewing it from below. Then the upholsterer cut a new top from half-inch plywood – even more sturdy for sitting on.

prep & painting

- Sand the piece using a medium-grit sanding sponge – ideal for turned legs and carved details.
- Wipe with a damp cloth or tack rag.
- Brush on one coat of latex primer; let dry.
- Apply three coats of semigloss latex paint (I used Ralph Lauren Paint's Hot Orange IB67); let dry between coats. Two coats will suffice for lighter colours.

pro upholstery lesson

Master upholsterer Patrick Kennedy of Soft Options Upholstery in Toronto offers these tips.

- Standard seat height is 18", so choose the right thickness of foam to bring the table to bench height.
- Centre the pattern of the fabric on the piece.
- If you're adding button tufting (as Patrick is doing in the photo at right), determine the placement that works best with the pattern. Patrick placed a button at the centre of each circular motif (see previous page). The sections of fabric used to cover the buttons also continue the circle pattern.



what i paid

COFFEE TABLE Craigslist	**$15**
PRIMER & PAINT (used leftovers)	**$0**
FABRIC	**$100**
UPHOLSTERY	**$130**
SOY FOAM	**$78**
TOTAL	**$323**

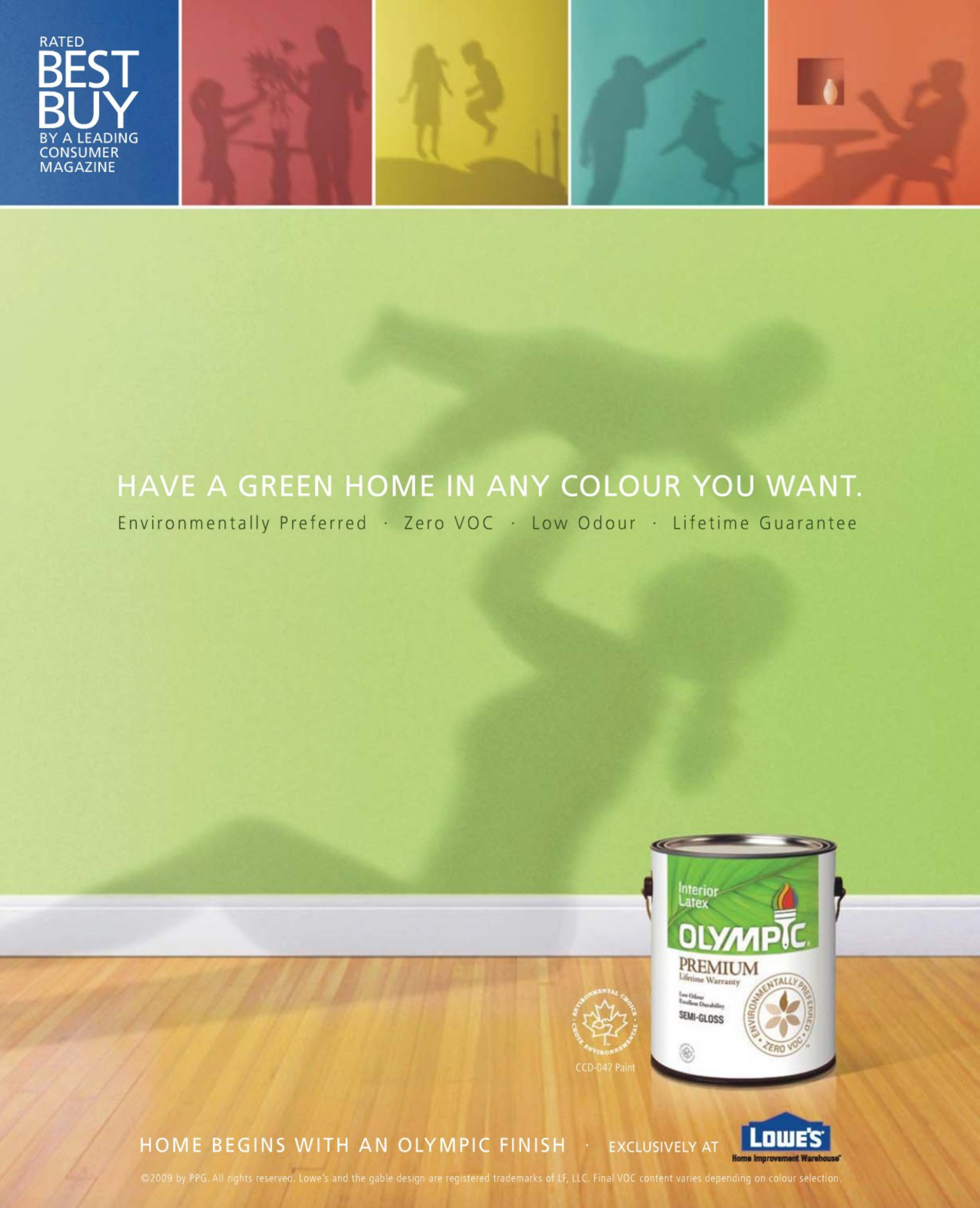
OPTIONAL CUSHION: EXTRA FABRIC $50, INSERT $38, SEWING $65

eco element

Upholsterer Patrick Kennedy used Foamite's Koosh Natural foam to pad the seat – it's made with soybean oil rather than harmful petrochemicals. Foamite also recycles scrap foam produced at its factory.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARGOT AUSTIN (TABLE, SANDING, PRIMING, UPHOLSTERY)


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setting with style

Dinnerware designer Rosanna Bowles plays by her own rules: "It's really 'anything goes' now for tabletop, which is so much fun!" By Brett Walther



ECLECTIC CUES Rosanna's designs often draw inspiration from flea market treasures and historical prints.

SHOPPING *in* STYLE



ALL IN THE DETAILS Rosanna's recycled glassware (right) melds festive motifs with a casual, coastal vibe, while the new Victoriana Noir porcelain collection (below) lends a touch of gothic glamour.



DOS AND DON'TS OF TABLE STYLE Since launching Seattle-based Rosanna Inc. in 1982, the elegant entrepreneur has reserved a place on tables worldwide with her fashion-forward takes on traditional dishware. The self-confessed "dish freak" and doyenne of patterned plates shares her tips for making ordinary tables extraordinary.

DON'T overdose on white. We've all heard that white plates are a must for food presentation, but Rosanna's not bound by that old adage. "It makes for a dull tabletop and doesn't let your creative side come through when setting the table," she says. "Everyone should have a set of 12 white dinner plates, but you build on that."

DO dress your table as you would dress yourself. "Mixing and matching different styles and periods is big in fashion now," says Rosanna. "You may have contemporary white plates, but you can mix in antique salad plates as side plates, accessorizing with Edwardian silver sugar bowls as vases and using unmatched flatware."

DO invest in patterned appetizer plates. "You can inexpensively insert them into the white china you already have, and they totally change the look of a table setting," Rosanna says.

DON'T overlook heirlooms. "It's amazing the unused treasures you can find in your mother's and grandmother's cabinets," says Rosanna, who loves layering passed-down patterns as side plates. "How charming to add those inherited pieces to your entertaining repertoire!"

DO shake things up seasonally. "The Victorians had four distinct sets of dishes, linens and all the accoutrements that are connected to the table – one for each season," says Rosanna. "I always try to be up on what's happening seasonally. Even if it's miserable outside, a warm, autumnal tabletop can provide an escape."

DO think "theatrical"! "My mom was really ahead of her time in the '50s," says Rosanna, who credits her mother's flair for breaking convention as a constant inspiration ("One time we even had a Japanese dinner on the floor"). "Her approach really got you out of the box of the traditional table setting so that it became entertainment, education and a point of conversation."

Rosanna, Seattle, 206-264-7882; rosannainc.com

For more tabletop inspiration, check out Rosanna's Table Talk blog at **ROSANNAINC.BLOGSPOT.COM**


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LEATHER FLOORS

table linens

Table linens are making a comeback in a big way, but don't just save them for special occasions – enjoy a stylish tabletop every day! By Christine Hanlon



DIOD TUMBLERS IN BROWN $3 EACH, IKEA. KISS ENGRAVED FOOTED GLASSES $18 EACH, LIV BY AU LIT. 21" SQUARE WHITE LINEN DINNER NAPKINS $16 EACH, HAMMERED NAPKIN RINGS $6 EACH, SILVER BOWL $79, HOMEFRONT. WHITE LINEN TABLECLOTH $120, JULIETTE GLASS CANDLEHOLDERS $80 PER SET OF THREE, CRATE AND BARREL. →

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHANNON ROSS


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easy clean

There's nothing like a wipeable placemat – even better if it's linen! SOLEA 14" X 18" SCOTCHGARD LINEN PLACEMAT $14; LINEN HEMSTITCH NAPKINS $15 EACH; HOMEFRONT. BARR CUP AND SAUCER IN VINTAGE LEAF $15 PER SET, LIV BY AU LIT.

graphic & gorgeous

Accessorize your table with Simrin's handmade textiles inspired by vintage fabrics and organic forms. BOTANICAL LINEN NAPKINS $48 US PER SET OF FOUR, SIMRIN.



mix it up

Keep a variety of napkins on hand so you're prepared to entertain at a moment's notice. FROM LEFT: EMBROIDERED DINNER $16; HEMSTITCH LUNCHEON $22, AND COCKTAIL $3; TEASPOONS $75 PER SET OF SIX; HOMEFRONT.



we love linen because...

- It's completely natural and fully biodegradable.
- It's highly absorbent and static free.
- It can be machine washed and gets softer with every cycle.

For tips on how to launder your linens, check out **STYLEATHOME.COM/LINEN**



one-time buy

White linen tablecloth with a hemstitch border. 60" X 90" $120, CRATE AND BARREL.



go vintage

Authentic linen goods are long-lasting and often passed down through generations. But whether old or new, pure linen is natural and biodegradable, making it eco friendly.



why not...

Use assorted tea towels as napkins at your next dinner party to mix it up and add some texture. FROM TOP: WAFFLE $6, HERRINGBONE IN WHITE AND SEA MIST $11 EACH, CHENILLE $6, LIV BY AU LIT.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160


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Now available. See homedepot.ca/behrpaintprimer for participating stores or call your local Home Depot store.

home office

Part studio, part playroom – an open-concept space welcomes



HIGH Maison by Ethan Allen **dining table** with parquet top $1,999, Ethan Allen. **Cowhide** $695, Elte. Jute bouclé 8' x 10' **rugs** in Flax $239 each, Gallery 14" x 17" **picture frames** $29 each, West Elm. Bigso **white boxes** $15 each, Chapters and Indigo Books & Music. Clear glass **lamps** with vellum shades (ribbon trim added) $569 each, Ethan Allen. Velvet **ribbon** (used as trim on shades) $10 per metre, Mokuba. John Derian handmade Moroccan leather **pouffe** $500, Constantine. MacBook Pro 15" **laptop** with Intel Core 2 Duo processor from $1,999, Apple. Silver-plated **tray** $995; sterling silver **rose bowl** $895; wooden **round box** (used as a pencil cup) $125; inlaid **wooden lidded box** $495; **walking sticks** $225, $145, $95; Cynthia Findlay Antiques. Mabef beech **easel** $150; 18" x 24" x 1" **stretched canvas** $17; DeSerres.

DINING TABLE
Ethan Allen, $2,000

TABLE LAMPS
Ethan Allen, $570 each

PICTURE FRAMES
West Elm, $30 each

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL HARRISON. PAINT (WALL), CHINESE BLUE 90, FARROW & BALL. INGOLF CHAIR, IKEA. CHANDELIER, CAMILLA HOUSE IMPORTS. GLASS CYLINDER VASE (USED AS A STAND), HOMESENSE.

the whole family. Think relaxed elegance, on any budget. Produced by Christine Hanlon



ART SUPPLIES, DESERRES. PRINTS, VINTAGE PRINTABLE. CANVASES PAINTED BY ERIC FARACHE

LOW Gloss White **dining table** $1,050, Camilla House Imports. Koldby **cowhide** $300, Tårnby jute 7' x 10' **rugs** $190 each, Ribba 12½" x 16½" **picture frames** $13 each, Kassett **white box** $13, IKEA. Bacchus glass **lamps** $180 each, with linen **shades** (ribbon trim added) $70 each, Pottery Barn. Twill **ribbon** (used as trim on shades) $2 per metre, Mokuba. Handmade Moroccan leather **pouffe** $395, The Cross. MacBook 13" **laptop** with Intel Core 2 Duo processor from $1,149, Apple. Silver-plated **tray** $395; silver-plated **rose bowl** $175; wooden **round box** (used as a pencil cup) $25; inlaid **wooden lidded box** $125; **walking sticks** $65, $65, $45; Cynthia Findlay Antiques. Elm **easel** $100, 20" x 24" x ½" **stretched canvas** $10, DeSerres. →

DINING TABLE
Camilla House Imports, $1,050

TABLE LAMPS
Pottery Barn, $250 each

PICTURE FRAMES
IKEA, $15 each



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Style at Home Contributing Design Editor Samantha Pynn will inspire you to bring fabulous flair to your home.
Tuesdays at 9pm ET / 10pm PT
New Season begins September 29
HGTV.ca
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DOUBLE DUTY In a multiuse space, skip the utilitarian desk and opt for a dining table. There's room for a laptop and paperwork, plus it's a cinch to set for entertaining. Simply stash supplies in a nearby sideboard or bookcase, and pull in chairs from another room. TABLE $1,050, CANE-SEAT CHAIRS $230 EACH, VELVET CHAIR ON CASTERS $499, CHANDELIER $399, CAMILLA HOUSE IMPORTS. BOWL $175, CYNTHIA FINDLAY ANTIQUES. KOLDBY COW-HIDE $300, TÅRNBY JUTE 7' X 10' RUGS $190 EACH, RIBBA 12½" X 16½" FRAMES $13 EACH, IKEA. PAINT (WALL), CHINESE BLUE 90 FROM $73 PER GALLON, FARROW & BALL.



LOW-COST ART Download these gorgeous 18th-century prints for free at Vintage Printable (vintageprintable.com/wordpress). Arrange gallery-style in self-matted frames for a cheap 'n' chic DIY.

all in the family

Open up your home office to include an art or lounge area for a space the whole family can enjoy. Here's how to do it.

- Instead of a desk, choose a roomy **dining table.** Place it away from the wall so it can be used from all sides – great for doing arts and crafts.
- Include a comfy **pouffe** or upholstered chair so kids or teens can lounge with their iPod or a book.
- Add an **easel** for painting – a studio space will encourage creativity. Plus, watching your budding artist paint while you do your own "homework" could be stress relieving!
- Give kids their own place, with a **kid-size table.**
- Store office or art supplies in **decorative boxes.**
- Decorate with **homey accessories:** a chandelier and table lamps (not desk lamps); layers of textured rugs; and inexpensive art that your kids can help make. WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

more cool combos



+



sleek & modern

HIGHGLOSS 26" RESIN LAMP $130, SEARS. CLIO GLASS-TOP MAPLE-AND-CHROME DINING TABLE $499, STRUCTUBE.



+



old hollywood

HAMPTON BAY AURA 17" CRYSTAL LAMP $60, THE HOME DEPOT. HUDSON STREET DINING TABLE IN ESPRESSO $3,149, DEBOER'S.



+



chic chinoiserie

BIANCA 26½" PEARL SHAGREEN-FINISH PORCELAIN LAMP $495, ARTERIORS HOME. BUNGALOW OAK EXTENSION DINING TABLE $899, CRATE AND BARREL.

design solutions

Senior design editor Margot Austin helps homeowners update a tired dining room set and choose a bedroom paint colour









Q We own a circa mid-'70s dining room set. Although I'd like to replace it, I was inspired by *Style at Home*'s July issue on upcycling. Is painting the set doable, or should my husband and I give up on that idea?

BEV HOLLOWAY LACASSE, L'ORIGNAL, ONT.

A There's no doubt that a coat of paint can do wonders for dated furniture. And I'm all for making the most of what you have before considering new purchases. Breaking up the matchy-matchiness of the pieces will update the room.

FIRST, MAKE OVER THE CHINA CABINET WITH PAINT. The glass doors and top detail are lovely, but the recessed bottom doors date it a bit. Also, its dark finish and large scale make it quite imposing in the space. Paint this piece a light neutral – not pure white, but a creamy colour like Benjamin Moore's White Dove OC-17. You could even line the inside back with a coordinating wallpaper or paint it the same colour as the pale green wall.

CENTRE THE CABINET ON THAT WALL after taking down the picture hanging next to it.

BUY A NEW SET OF DINING CHAIRS and donate or sell your old set. Fully upholstered chairs will bring this room into the 21st century. Look for a contemporary style like the Colette chair from Crate and Barrel, shown above. Its curved camelback echoes the top of your cabinet. The nailhead detail is very now, and a neutral fabric will work with the cabinet paint colour.

DON'T CHANGE A THING ABOUT THE TABLE – I think it's quite beautiful as is. The design is timeless, and the finish is wonderful.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

Q I'd love to wallpaper the headboard wall of my bedroom in a black-on-white damask print. What colour should I paint the remaining walls?

ANTONELLA INGLESI, VIA E-MAIL

A When using a bold print to create an accent wall, it's always a good plan to paint the other three walls a colour that closely matches the wallpaper background. When you go to the paint store, bring along a wallpaper sample so you can have a custom colour mixed.

your query could win!

Questions received by Oct. 11, 2009, will be considered for the January issue. A randomly drawn winner will receive a **Gold Bond Prize Pack.** Gold Bond Ultimate Restoring Skin Therapy Lotion not only contains seven nourishing moisturizers, plus vitamins A, C and E, but also the "king of antioxidants," CoQ10, to breathe new life into dull, depleted skin. **Retail value: $75.** HAVE A QUESTION FOR MARGOT? SEND IT TO ASKUS@STYLEATHOME.COM, OR ASK US, STYLE AT HOME, 25 SHEPPARD AVE. W., TORONTO, ONT. M2N 6S7. SEND BRIEF LETTERS WITH CONTACT INFO AND THE HIGHEST-RESOLUTION PHOTOS POSSIBLE. (MARGOT CAN'T RESPOND PERSONALLY OR RETURN ITEMS.)



Find more Ask Us at **STYLEATHOME.COM/ASKUS**

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entertaining



a sweet affair

Get the goods on throwing a fabulous dessert party, from making your own invitations and drinks to setting a pretty tabletop

Written by Seema Persaud | Produced by Ann Marie Favot | Photography by Stacey Van Berkel-Haines



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KAREN KWINTER Style Editor, Canadian Living Magazine



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ELISSA LANSDELL Host, CMT





Margie: "I'll never forget receiving my first Barbie®, with her gorgeous hair, trendy outfits, cars and houses…she really had it all!"

Glenn: "I used to redecorate the Dream Townhouse with Popsicle sticks for hardwood floors and would add my own wallpaper and custom paint jobs to the interior. Isn't it funny that years later, we're still feverishly redecorating homes?"

MARGIE DOYLE-WHITE & GLENN DIXON

Hosts, Take This House and Sell It!, W Network



Enter the Barbie Fab Life Contest and you could WIN a pink-tastic bedroom makeover for your child! Go to www.barbie50.ca/fablife

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Present desserts on cake stands of various heights for visual balance.



Artisanal marshmallows from Toronto's Nadège pâtisserie.



Jazz up cupcakes with decorative wraps.

who Your close friends or family

when After dinnertime, so guests can stop by for a sweet treat, or on a Sunday afternoon for some midday delights

where Your own home, in a room that can easily be rearranged

why It's fun, easy and satisfies everyone's sweet tooth. Perfect for birthdays, holiday entertaining – even a small wedding reception!

how Use cake stands, serving platters, napkins, plates and a tablecloth in a space with enough seating for guests. How to pull it together in time? Check out our party planner. →

party planner

3 WEEKS BEFORE

- ❑ pick date and time, make guest list
- ❑ determine budget, choose colour scheme and theme
- ❑ prepare invitations and send
- ❑ hire any help required

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- ❑ plan menu, once you know food allergies, and order any desserts
- ❑ decide on tableware and linens

1 WEEK BEFORE

- ❑ review RSVP list
- ❑ create music playlist

1-3 DAYS BEFORE

- ❑ buy groceries and liquor
- ❑ make sure you have clean-up supplies
- ❑ prepare make-ahead food
- ❑ tidy and set up the room(s)

DAY OF

- ❑ buy and arrange flowers
- ❑ finish last-minute cooking
- ❑ pick up ordered food



Elevate purchased cookies by aligning them on a rectangular serving platter.







Take your tea and coffee up a notch by adding tasty liqueurs and whipped cream to satisfy your sweet tooth.

cosy nightcaps

These classic after-dinner drinks are wonderful dessert companions.

SPANISH COFFEE

½ oz Tia Maria (coffee liqueur)
½ oz rum
Brewed coffee
Whipped cream

Combine liqueur and rum. Add hot coffee to taste. Garnish with whipped cream. **Makes 1 serving**

BLUEBERRY TEA

1 oz amaretto (almond-flavoured liqueur)
1 oz Grand Marnier (orange-flavoured liqueur)
Steeped orange pekoe tea

Combine liqueurs. Add hot tea to taste. **Makes 1 serving** →


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invitations

Set the tone of your intimate gathering by sending guests a theme-appropriate invite.

budget-friendly stationery

Letterpress and professionally printed invitations may not be in everyone's budget. Use one of these cost-saving ideas for your next party.

personal touch If you have nice handwriting, buy ready-made invitations or monogrammed stationery cards and write on them (prepare a rough draft on a scrap piece of paper before writing the real thing).

handmade Cut coloured card stock to a size of your choice and write or print text on the paper. Using a craft punch, punch shapes in a sheet of contrasting coloured paper, then glue shapes along the edge of the invite to create a border. Embellish with ready-made scrapbook stickers.

computer generated Go digital! The HP Activity Centre (hp.ca/create) lets you choose from a variety of free templates and add photos to the invitations. Microsoft Office Online (office.microsoft.com/templates) has dozens of free downloadable templates, too.

web mail/e-vites Save on paper and postage by sending invites for casual events via e-mail. Evite (evite.com) allows users to customize stationery and include a map. Guests can also sign up to bring food items. WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

For info on invitation etiquette, go to **STYLEATHOME.COM/INVITATIONETIQUETTE**


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1 set of china
7 stunning looks

A few brilliant styling tricks elevate white china to a feast for the eyes – at prices that won't break the bank! By Brett Walther



STARTING POINT MAXWELL & WILLIAMS CASHMERE 27.5 CM BONE CHINA DINNER PLATE $12, 20 CM SIDE PLATE $7, NORTHDALE TRADING.



Lay runners crosswise for a fresh alternative to individual placemats. EVERGREEN IN CHOCOLATE 13" X 72" COTTON RUNNER $40, AND 20" SQUARE COTTON NAPKIN $10, DANICA. GOLD BIRCH NAPKIN RING $70 PER SET OF FOUR, AT DESIGN GROUP. FAUX BOIS-FINISH STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE $40 PER 20-PIECE SET, HOMESENSE.



Marry pretty, patterned linens with solids for a pairing that's harmonious, not busy. FOLKLORE 13" X 19" COTTON PLACEMAT IN BLACK $9, APRIL CORNELL ESSENTIAL 18" SQUARE HAND-KNOTTED FRINGE COTTON NAPKIN IN BLACK $18 PER SET OF SIX, DANICA. NIKITA FILIGREE BEADED NAPKIN RING IN BLACK $7, ABBOTT. ETCHED STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE $40 PER 20-PIECE SET, HOMESENSE.

Get the look of monogrammed linens at a fraction of the cost with self-adhesive or iron-on appliqué letters. TISSAGE MOUTET GOUNY ET MARANGE 66" X 96" COTTON/LINEN TABLECLOTH $294, JACKRYN FRANCE. HEIRLOOM 14" X 20" EMBROIDERED LINEN PLACEMAT $20, 22" SQUARE LINEN HEMSTITCH NAPKIN $14, POTTERY BARN. STICK-ONS MONOGRAM APPLIQUÉ, $4, FABRICLAND. GRANNY 12" PRESSED-GLASS PLATE $7, ABBOTT. BRASSERIE FLATWARE IN CREAM $40 PER FIVE-PIECE PLACE SETTING, JACKRYN FRANCE.

***STYLE AT HOME* EXCLUSIVE!**
For a discount when purchasing Tissage Moutet linens online at JacKryn France (jackryn.com), type in the code 75sk8 at the checkout stage.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JODI PUDGE





The Talbot Room Group

Layer in a white charger to bulk up the china without losing the airiness of the tone-on-tone palette. MARIMEKKO LUMIMARJA 160 X 320 CM COTTON SATEEN TABLECLOTH $125, MARIMEKKO VANCOUVER. MAXWELL & WILLIAMS CASHMERE 30.5 CM BONE CHINA RIM CHARGER $30, NORTHDALE TRADING. PLAZA 18" SQUARE COTTON NAPKIN IN LIGHT GREY $12 PER SET OF FOUR, ACCENTS DE VILLE BY LINEA. MICHAEL ARAM SILVER TWIG FLATWARE $106 PER FIVE-PIECE PLACE SETTING, AT DESIGN GROUP.





Make a tablecloth from remnant fabric. For a no-sew finish, apply hemming tape to the cut edge; or pull loose fibres to create a half-inch fringe, then treat with Fray Block (available at fabric and craft stores). WAVERLY BY COLOR COLLECTION COUNTRY LIFE COTTON TOILE FABRIC IN BURLAP $33 PER METRE, FABRICLAND. TAVA 14" RATTAN CHARGER IN ESPRESSO $25, POTTERY BARN. HEMSTITCH 20" SQUARE COTTON NAPKIN IN NAVY $5, DANICA. RUSTIK BEECH-HANDLE STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE $50 PER 20-PIECE SET WITH TRAY (NOT SHOWN), IKEA.

Repurpose costume jewelry and bits of salvaged ribbon as no-two-alike napkin ring enclosures. 14" CAPIZ SHELL PLACEMAT $20, DORSET 21" SQUARE COTTON/RAYON NAPKIN $5, CRATE AND BARREL. NAPOLEON PEARLIZED IVORY PLASTIC-AND-STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE $80 US PER FIVE-PIECE PLACE SETTING, ROSANNA.





Take a napkin from ordinary to extraordinary with a fancy pocket for flatware. ETIENNE 14" X 19" EMBROIDERED COTTON PLACEMAT IN RUST $11, LUSTRE 21" SQUARE POLYRAYON NAPKIN IN RUST $6, KAVA 5¾" STONEWARE SAUCER $16, CRATE AND BARREL. WOOD-HANDLE HORN FLATWARE $15 PER THREE-PIECE SET, AT DESIGN GROUP.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

Learn how to do this napkin fold on associate design editor Brett Walther's blog at **STYLEATHOME.COM/STYLESLEUTH**

party pieces

Our editors share their essential ingredients for a chic soiré e

By Brett Walther



SHAPELY PITCHERS "Even water should be dressed up for a party!" JULIA ARMSTRONG, SENIOR EDITOR ONA HAND-BLOWN GLASS PITCHERS $20 (17 OZ.), $30 (46 OZ.), CRATE AND BARREL.



AN OFFER THEY CAN'T REFUSE "These snappy invitations are perfect for a cocktail party for friends. The green colour and stripes are classic." MELISSA GEURTS, GRAPHIC DESIGNER BIG CARD, SMALL PARTY INVITATIONS $25 US PER SET OF 10 CARDS WITH ENVELOPES, KATE SPADE NEW YORK.



KNOCKOUT PUNCH "Take the punch bowl out of the awkward high-school-dance setting, and you have a vessel that makes even the simplest drink exciting!" SEEMA PERSAUD, INTERN GLASS PUNCH SET (THREE-GALLON BOWL, EIGHT 10 OZ. CUPS, ACRYLIC LADLE) $50, CRATE AND BARREL.



EASY ESPRESSO "Makes après-dinner bevvies a breeze – a full round is ready by the time I clear the plates. And the superskinny design means it takes up less space on my cramped counters." BRETT WALTHER, ASSOCIATE DESIGN EDITOR NESPRESSO CITIZ D110 IN 60S WHITE $299, NESPRESSO.



BAROQUE CANDLESTICKS "For any occasion, ambience is an essential ingredient. Add French-inspired luxury to the mix with chic illumination." SUZANNE HARTMANN, COPY EDITOR DAUPHINE 12" DOLOMITE CANDLESTICKS IN WHITE $100 PER PAIR, ROSANNA.



TUNE UP "A party hasn't started until there's great music coming from a fab sound system." LAUREN MCPHILLIPS, SENIOR EDITOR TIVOLI AUDIO IPAL RADIO IN WHITE/SILVER $250, TIVOLI/LENBROOK CANADA.

For more staff picks, go to **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JODI PUDGE (CANDLESTICKS). PUNCH BOWL AND PITCHER IMAGES COURTESY OF CRATE AND BARREL



shimmer and shine

Showcase the season's bounty with a sophisticated palette of silver, white and glossy black. These nine glamorous and budget-friendly looks will last right through the holidays

Written by Lauren Flanagan | Produced by Nicola Marc | Photography by Monic Richard



2

1 GLOWING MANTELSCAPE

Florist Fauchois Fleurs made this garland from twigs, leaves and snowberries. To create your own, start in the middle and tie twigs together horizontally with thin wire or twine. Work your way toward either end by attaching more twigs, keeping both sides balanced. Insert leaves and berries to hide the wire. An arrangement of various candles finishes the look. GARLAND, FAUCHOIS FLEURS. CANDLES, COLONIAL CANDLE. GLASS CANDLEHOLDERS, ARTHUR QUENTIN.

2 TABLE CHIC

This informal table mixes warm whites and cool silvers. To prevent the light scheme from looking too airy, paint paper gourds black to ground the display and tie in with the dark tabletop. RUNNERS, NAPKINS, FLATWARE, PLATES, BOWLS, GLASSES, ARTHUR QUENTIN. PAPER TREES, DESERRES. PAPER GOURDS, SILVER LEAVES, SEASONS OF CANNON FALLS. RIBBON, MASTERSTROKE CANADA. →

INTERIOR DESIGN, ELLEN COOPERSMITH INTERIORS. STYLING ASSISTANT, MYLENE CYR



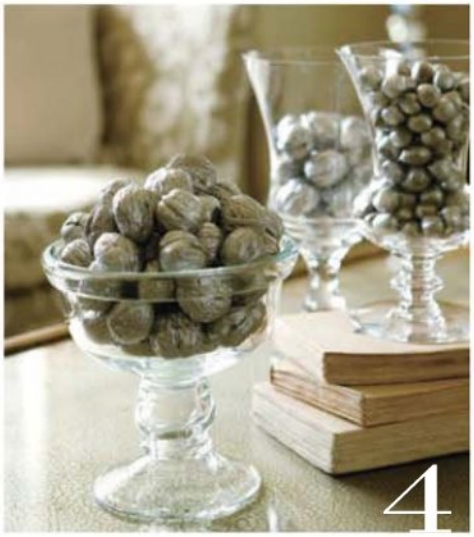
3 GLAM GOURDS

Painting gourd stalks and a basket is a quick and easy project. When you're done, arrange the cornucopia on a buffet table. "Use a thick silver marker to colour gourd stalks," says Montreal-based stylist Nicola Marc. "It's much more precise and far easier than spray paint."

GLASSES, FLATWARE, CARAFE, ARTHUR QUENTIN.

Transform a boring basket with a can of silver spray paint in minutes!

3







4 **SUPEREASY ARRANGEMENT**
Add interest to a coffee table with a simple display that complements metallic elements in a room. Spray-paint walnuts and hazelnuts and group them in glass vases of various shapes and heights for a dynamic finish. VASES, ARTHUR QUENTIN.

5 **MENU TREE**
A tiny tree spray-painted and decorated with feathers makes a unique menu: write the names of the dishes on the tags and hang them on the tree. Alternatively, personalize it with words of thanks written by guests. PAPER TREE, DESERRES.

6 **LEAFY NAPKIN RING**
Attention to detail is the difference between a nice table setting and a spectacular one. Instead of using store-bought napkin rings, tie ribbon to a silver leaf accent, then tie the ribbon around each napkin. RUNNERS, NAPKINS, FLATWARE, PLATES, BOWLS, GLASSES, ARTHUR QUENTIN. RIBBON, MASTERSTROKE CANADA. SILVER LEAVES, SEASONS OF CANNON FALLS. →



When spray-painting awkward items like wreaths or baskets, put them in a cardboard box (tape up gaps) to contain any overspray.





7 SPARKLING DOOR WREATH

Greet guests with a silver wreath that hints at the decorating scheme inside. This plastic one got an easy makeover with spray paint and a velvet ribbon. WREATH, HOMESENSE. RIBBON, MASTERSTROKE CANADA.

8 CHARMING CENTREPIECE

A cake stand topped with candles and seasonally inspired accents like turkeys (spray-painted silver) and pinecones is a fun alternative to a floral display. CANDLES, COLONIAL CANDLE. RESIN TURKEYS, METAL PINECONES, SEASONS OF CANNON FALLS.

9 TABLETOP ELEGANCE

Carry a crisp, clean palette through to your dishes and flatware. For a sophisticated look, make everything on your table work together. Raid your cupboards and pull out items that complement your seasonal scheme – from china to glassware to napkins. PLATES, BOWL, NAPKIN, FLATWARE, GLASSES, ARTHUR QUENTIN. WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

myth or fact?

People say that lemon juice fades freckles. Chocolate makes you break out.
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*Non-antidandruff shampoos and conditioners.



Recommended by the Dermatology Review Panel.

Rethink Head & Shoulders. Get the facts on a beautiful-looking scalp and hair at **headandshoulders.ca**

what a dish!

Cook up your own dream kitchen with ideas from these 5 inspired spaces

By Lauren McPhillips

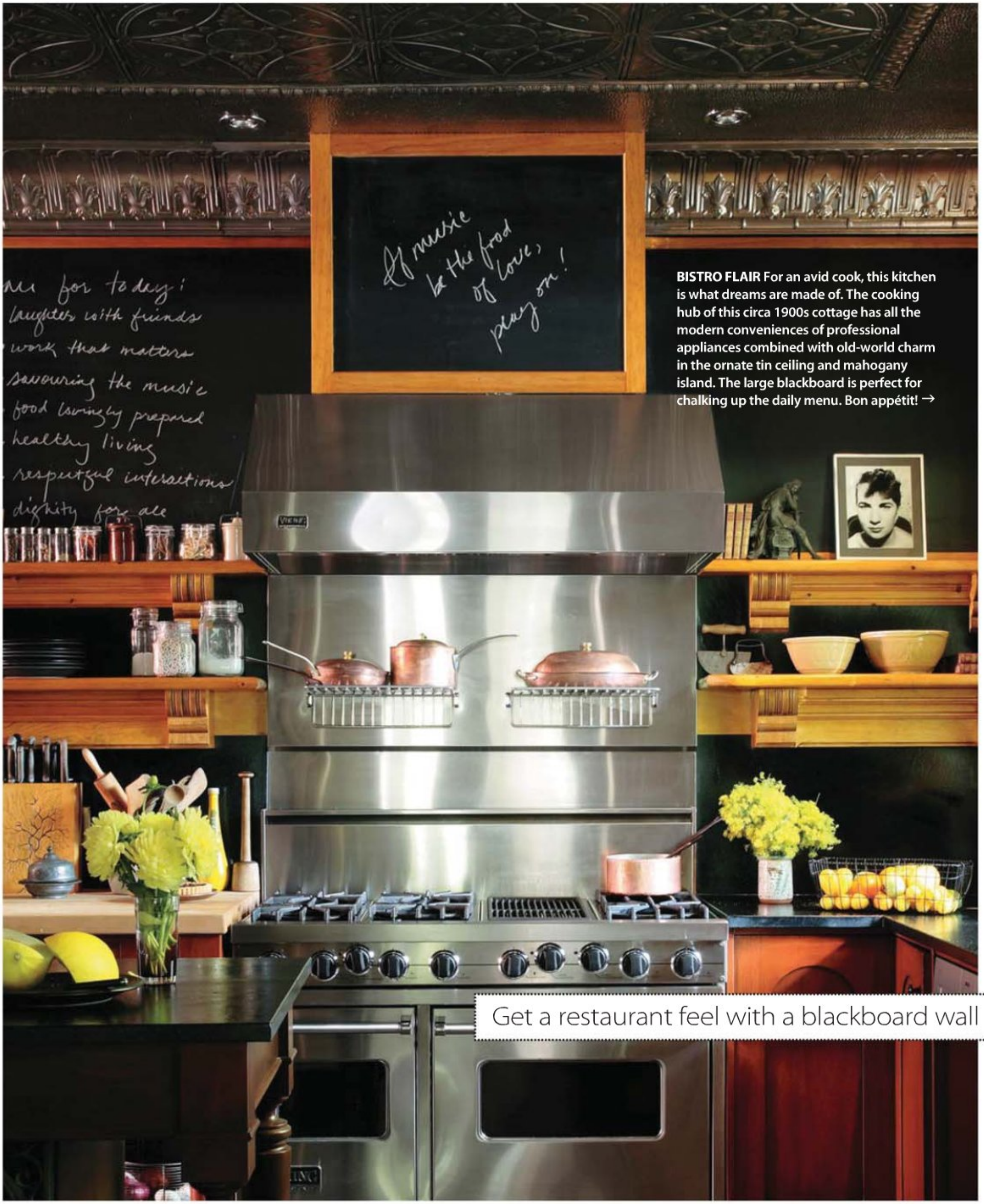


Treat your upper cabinets to a splash of colour

WEST COAST MODERN Everything about this open-concept kitchen exudes modernity, from its minimalist Corian countertops to seamless design. Against all white, the vibrant hit of citrus on the cabinets and backsplash gives this linear space character, while the curvy lines of the chairs and faucet add a sleek sculptural element. →

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN TESSLER. INTERIOR DESIGN, DAVID NICOLAY

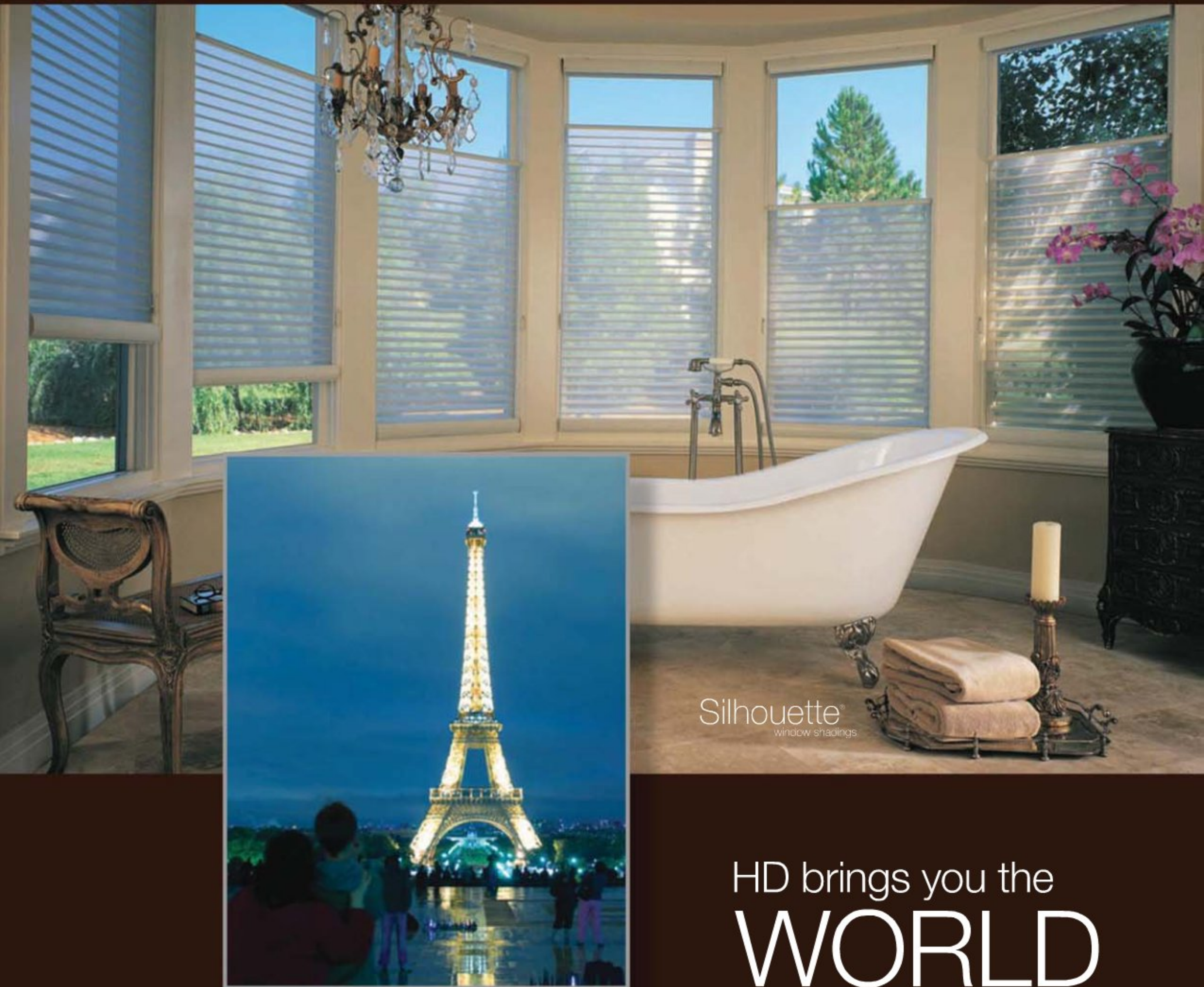

KraftMaid Cabinetry received the highest numerical score among cabinetry brands in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 Cabinet Satisfaction Study℠. Study based on responses from 1,383 consumers measuring 6 brands and measures opinions of consumers who purchased new cabinetry within the previous 12 months. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in March-April 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.
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J.D. POWER
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KRAFTMAID CABINETRY
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BISTRO FLAIR For an avid cook, this kitchen is what dreams are made of. The cooking hub of this circa 1900s cottage has all the modern conveniences of professional appliances combined with old-world charm in the ornate tin ceiling and mahogany island. The large blackboard is perfect for chalking up the daily menu. Bon appétit! →

Get a restaurant feel with a blackboard wall

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBIN STUBBERT


Silhouette®
window shadings



Give subway tile a vintage look with dark grout

FABULOUSLY FARMHOUSE Traditional in design with its scalloped trim and farmhouse sink, this gorgeous kitchen also has a few modern touches in the stainless steel appliances and white subway tile backsplash. Thanks to sunny yellow on the walls and crisp white on the cabinets, this room could brighten any dull day.

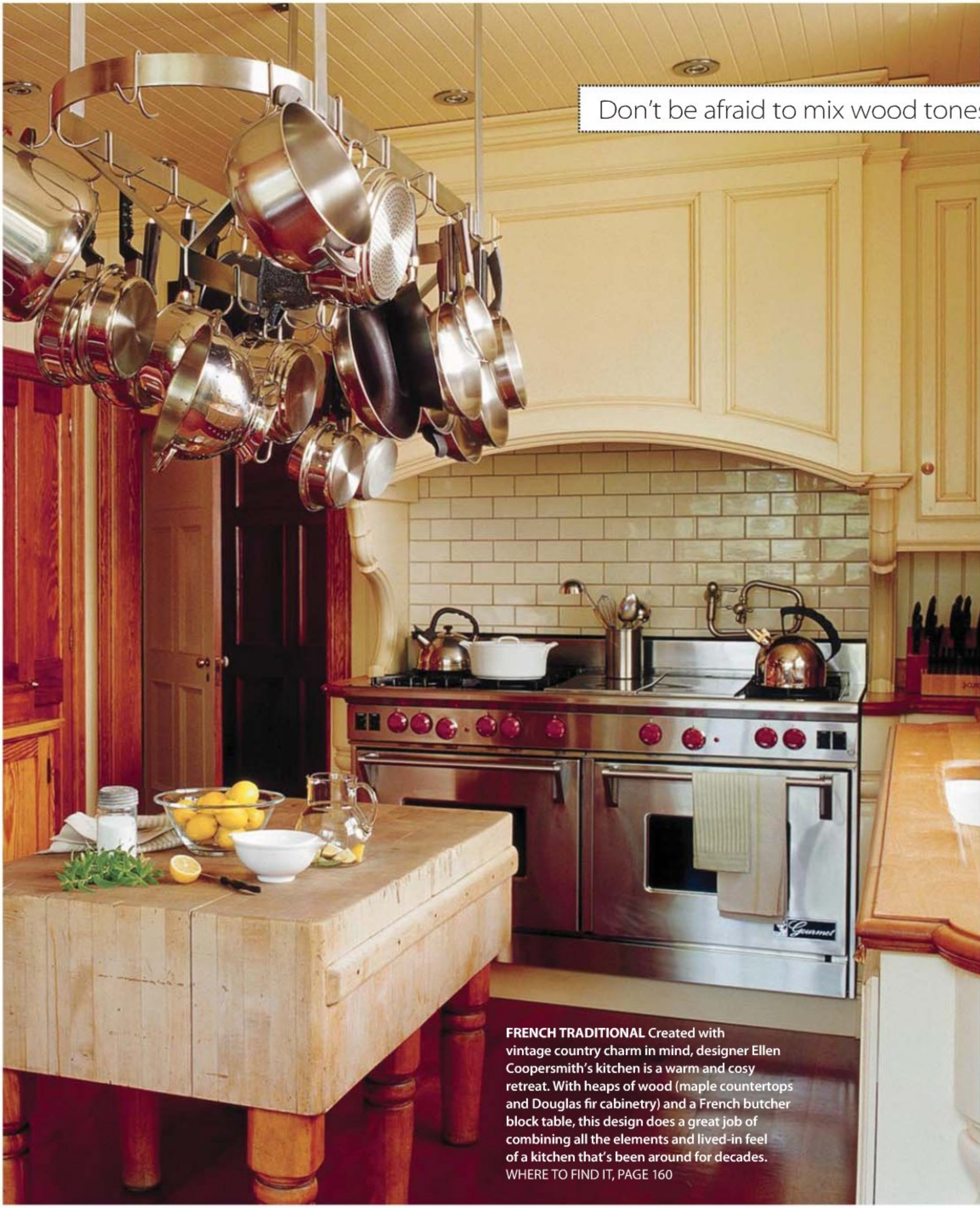


Transform a room with a painted wood ceiling

OPEN COUNTRY Simplicity is key when it comes to this classic kitchen. Open shelving displaying an assortment of mismatched ceramics gives the space personality. The bare window and single pendant hanging over the sink help make a simply stylish statement. →

PHOTOGRAPHY BY VIRGINIA MACDONALD. STYLING BY NICOLA MARC. INTERIOR DESIGN, CHANTAL BOULÉ (TOP)

Don't be afraid to mix wood tones



FRENCH TRADITIONAL Created with vintage country charm in mind, designer Ellen Coopersmith's kitchen is a warm and cosy retreat. With heaps of wood (maple countertops and Douglas fir cabinetry) and a French butcher block table, this design does a great job of combining all the elements and lived-in feel of a kitchen that's been around for decades.
WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANGUS MCRITCHIE

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Cucumber Salmon Bites



INGREDIENTS:

- 8 Breton Crackers
- 16 Thin slices of English cucumber
- 8 Small slices of smoked salmon
- Lemon, thinly sliced
- Dill (optional)

PREPARATION:

1. Place cucumber slices over crackers. Top with salmon.
2. Cut lemon slices into quarters. Garnish salmon with lemon and a sprig of dill, if using

HINT:

Keep the cucumber in place by spreading a dollop of cream cheese on your Breton cracker.

Makes 8 crackers.





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homes



DINING ROOM "I have a little thing for dishes," admits homeowner Michele Hatziioannou. But when you entertain often, a lot of tableware isn't an indulgence, it's a necessity.



party central

Michele and Leon Hatziioannou, owners of the decor shop House Warmings, have created a home that easily accommodates get-togethers of up to 100. For their family of five, entertaining is a way of life

By Kathleen Dore | Photography by Donna Griffith

KITCHEN "I'm not particular about having everything perfect. Think of French bakeries and beautiful worn marble tables," Michele says, referring to her marble-top island. As for open shelves? "We use the dishes every day, so they don't get dusty."


Menu



KITCHEN SEATING The other end of the kitchen features a nailhead-detail sofa where guests can chat while their host prepares dinner. **HALLWAY** Michele calls her style "East Coast meets French European" – there are country elements, but the curvy secretary and black slate floors lend a Continental feel. →





"We love to entertain and we're always having people over," says Michele Hatziioannou of herself and her husband, Leon. She's not kidding. Between all their friends, family (they have three kids – Simon, 14, Claire, 11, Cameron, 9) and extended family, hardly a week goes by without a get-together. "One of my favourite things is impromptu Friday nights – just thinking, 'OK, so who's around?'" says Michele. "We'll cook up a big mess of mussels. I serve them in my soup tureen with a fresh loaf of bread. It's that simple."

Leon and Michele's house, near their downtown Oakville, Ont., home decor shop, House Warmings, is the go-to place in the neighbourhood. "Our kids are really into sports, so at the last minute we'll have people back after a game," says Michele. Parents, kids – everyone is welcome. "We all come back here, maybe just for drinks or to whip together a dinner." →

entertaining style

Homeowner Michele Hatziioannou dishes on last-minute entertaining.

APPETIZER IN MINUTES

I keep a bag of soybeans in the freezer – it takes a couple of minutes to steam them, then throw on some sea salt for a healthy appetizer.

LAST-MINUTE NONFLORAL CENTREPIECE

In my yard I have boxwood and cedar, which stay green all year round – they look pretty placed in a row of vases.

IDEAL PARTY

The more the merrier! Leon hired a band for my 40th birthday and we had about 100 people dancing in the backyard.

NO-BAKE DESSERT

Strawberries with a little Cointreau and freshly ground pepper over vanilla ice cream.

UNEXPECTED GUESTS

Just dim the lights and set out a few candles for a cosy ambience.

"If there's a special family event, Christmas or a birthday, it usually happens here because **the house is just perfect for it**" MICHELE HATZIIOANNOU, OWNER



BAR AREA Husband Leon's wet bar is in the family room. The marble countertop, beadboard and cabinets match the kitchen, visually linking the two rooms.







LIVING ROOM "I'm adamant about using every space in the house," says Michele. "We use this room if we're having another couple over, or if I'm just having some ladies visit." **CHAIR** Oliver, the family's Maltese dog, takes a seat in the living room. **FRONT YARD RINK** "The covered porch is a great spot to sit and watch the kids skate around on the rink that Leon makes every winter," says Michele. The wide arms of the Muskoka chairs are perfect perches for drinks. "We just wrap ourselves up in blankets and enjoy," she says.

The house is ideal for entertaining. When the Hatziioannous renovated in 2005, they added a huge main-floor family room and kitchen and expanded the basement, too, which is their kids' idea of heaven: a ping-pong table, pool table, entertainment centre. When the couple entertain – and it's always family style – "the kids disappear down there," says Michele. That leaves the main floor to the adults, who can chat, relax and enjoy Leon and Michele's hospitality.

The family room bar was Leon's idea. "My husband is Greek – he loves having people eat and drink in our home," says Michele. "Once, Leon was in someone's home and they had a bar right at the front door – he really thought that was the cat's meow." Michele wasn't sure the entryway was the best spot, however, so they settled on the family room, which opens to the kitchen, has doors to the backyard and pool, and is steps from the living room. "It's Leon's. He has his spot and mine is the kitchen," says Michele. →



"**I didn't want it to be trendy** or have elements I would tire of five years down the road"

MICHELE HATZIIOANNOU, OWNER





MASTER BEDROOM While Michele and Leon are natural extroverts, they needed a retreat. The chandelier, elegant night table and French-style chairs dress up the pared-back lines of the country-style bed. **BATHROOM** "I love my soaker tub – I take a bath in it almost every day," says Michele. The combination of the tub, white Carrara marble floors and countertops, and French-inspired mirror evokes a Parisian apartment feel.

The kitchen is everything Michele wanted and more – marble countertops, open shelving and plenty of white. "I love white, and it's everywhere you look in the house," she says. The island is also a fave feature. "Someone's always sitting there," says Michele, whether it's the kids doing homework or guests keeping her company. She also fashioned a cocktail area by adding a sofa and bistro table for guests to relax at.

Michele and Leon's open-door policy never seems to waver. But with all the coming and going, you have to wonder, is it ever just the five of them? "Leon is really adamant about family dinners," says Michele. "We just want to take time, enjoy each other's company and have a conversation. Afterward, the kids can run out the door, but even if we're together for half an hour, it's worth it," she says.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160



lush blooms

Get a fresh twist on holiday decor with four high-impact, low-effort ideas

Written by Seema Persaud
Produced by Elaine Martin of Vintage Gardener
Photography by Paul Chmielowiec

SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE FERMENTING CELLAR, TORONTO



simply roses

A handcrafted stone mini-urn and various shades of peach roses add up to a dynamic, compact arrangement – a beautiful accent in a powder room or on a night table.

HOW-TO Cut rose stems to 2" and stick in moist floral foam ball in X pattern. Fill in spaces. Tuck in sheet moss, letting some hang over.

amazing amaryllis

(opposite) Amaryllis is one of the stars in this arrangement, which looks elegant in an urn. It's dazzling on a foyer table or mantel.

HOW-TO Put salal leaves in a water-filled urn. Create a waterfall effect with noble fir, white pine, blueberry juniper and seeded eucalyptus branches. Mix in roses, amaryllis and French tulips in different bloom sizes and stem lengths. Top with golden curly willow branches. →

mixed (ever)greens

Brighten your coffee table with this festive arrangement.

HOW-TO Insert white pine, noble fir, blueberry juniper and seeded eucalyptus branches into a moist square of floral foam in the pot. Fill in gaps with groups of roses and French tulips. Finish with a few pinecone clusters.



“Arrangements should reflect your personality, so don’t be afraid to try something new”

ELAINE MARTIN, FLORAL ARTIST



mini hedge

Lush red roses and a simple blue box give this arrangement contemporary appeal. You can use it year-round, as the roses will dry nicely. The rectangular shape is perfect for narrow tables and windowsills.

HOW-TO Lay presoaked floral foam in the trough. Cut stems of partially opened roses short and insert in foam. Fill in spaces with soaked sheet moss.

For Elaine’s arranging tips, see **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160**

In this home, entertaining is all about having a good time. Party host extraordinaire Julie Albert celebrates her passion in *Bite Me*, her new cookbook written with her sister, Lisa Gnat

By Tanya Linton | Photography by Michael Graydon

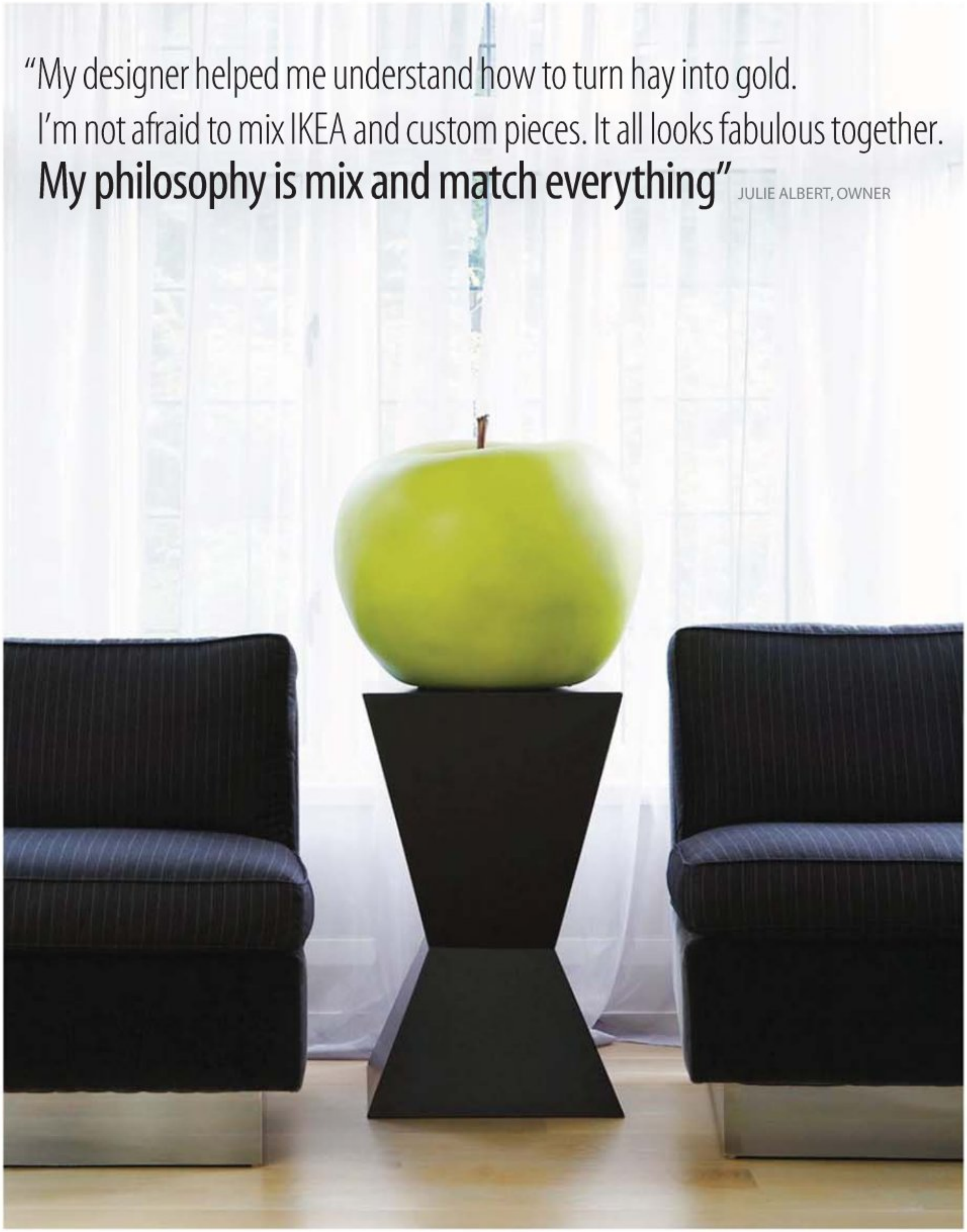


family funhouse



LIVING ROOM A mix of furnishings, including a silver leather ottoman, offers plenty of spots to relax during a party. Black-and-white photos are even more dynamic in a white interior. For a hit of colour, green velvet cushions and orchids are just the thing. **DEN** Portraits of the kids line shelves along the wall. Pink accessories pop against the serene backdrop. In a clever styling trick, Julie bought several IKEA drapery panels for each window and hung them together for a full, billowy look.

"My designer helped me understand how to turn hay into gold. I'm not afraid to mix IKEA and custom pieces. It all looks fabulous together. **My philosophy is mix and match everything"** JULIE ALBERT, OWNER



LIVING ROOM It's hard to miss the giant Granny Smith apple set on a pedestal. A conversation starter, this playful sculpture by Selma Calheira brightens a pair of dark grey pinstripe chairs. **HALLWAY** "I'm passionate about photography," says Julie. "It resonates with me more than any other art form." Her favourite photograph, *Lake Huron, Craigleith #1, 2002,* by Robert Burley hangs above the stunning white tile fireplace. Clear boxes store kindling and logs without distracting from the minimalist setting. →







If you snag an invite to one of Julie Albert's parties, chances are good that you'll be dining with the likes of Elvis – albeit a 2" rubber version of The King. Her white lacquered dining table is decked out with fake money, dice and oversize playing cards. At each setting, there's Elvis holding a place card.

Other soirées in Julie's mid-Toronto home have equally fun themes – beach parties, Halloween bashes, even "girls just wanna have fun" nights. "We love entertaining and host once a month,"

entertaining style

Homeowner Julie Albert and sister Lisa Gnat, co-authors of *Bite Me*, serve up their best entertaining tips.

FAVOURITE LAST-MINUTE APPETIZER

JULIE & LISA Sweet and Sour Candied Salami (from our book), crostini with a white bean spread, sautéed mushrooms with Parmesan and mint.

NO-BAKE DESSERT

JULIE & LISA Greg's Roasted Marshmallow ice cream served with graham crackers and broken bits of chocolate. It's our take on s'mores.

IDEAL PARTY

JULIE I love sit-down dinners. Plus, I have 12 dining chairs, so why wouldn't I invite 12 people and use all of them?

LAST-MINUTE ENTERTAINING IS AS MUCH FUN AS...

A. a blind date B. grocery shopping on a tight budget
C. riding a roller coaster

JULIE & LISA C. Without a doubt!

SAVE & SPLURGE ENTERTAINING STAPLES

JULIE I love to stock up on IKEA platters and vases – they're so inexpensive, and I always use them. My favourite indulgence is Bond No. 9 candles. They have the best smell!

PARTY PLAYLIST

JULIE I create a new one for every party. I start with Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. I always have some Tom Jones and Al Green. For a bit of independent music, I add New Pornographers. I've been known to end the night with a Led Zeppelin tune or two.

FAVOURITE PARTY GAME

JULIE & LISA It's unhygienic, but bobbing for apples while sipping apple martinis is fun. Do it at the end of the night when people don't care about makeup and other stuff.

PARTY-PLANNING DUO Sisters and *Bite Me* co-authors Julie Albert (left) and Lisa Gnat in the kitchen – prep central for their fab theme parties. **SUNDAE COLLECTION** Elevate knickknacks like these ice cream sundae sculptures by displaying them en masse against a minimalist backdrop. **COOL KITCHEN** Frosted grey glass cabinets, blue pendant lights and a Carrara marble island and backsplash lend subtle colour and warmth to the airy, white kitchen. Julie had the space designed so everything's within reach. It's open to the dining room, which allows in light and connects the space to the rest of the house. →



"There are no rules except that **entertaining should be fun**" JULIE ALBERT, OWNER





"You should have as much fun with the table as you can.

she says. "But we never do anything too formal. It has to be fun."

"We" refers to Julie and her sister, Lisa Gnat. Although there's a two-year age difference, the pair are tighter than twins – always giggling and finishing each other's sentences. Lisa loves to cook and Julie is definitely the party packager so, not surprisingly, they decided to write a cookbook, *Bite Me,* and publish it under their own label, Pinky Swear Press. The book is full of delicious recipes for the home cook, plus tons of inspiring party ideas.





I'm always scouring dollar stores for ideas" JULIE ALBERT, OWNER

GIRLS' NIGHT IN "I love having a white dining table," says Julie. "You can do almost anything with it and it will look amazing." Here, pink flower petal placemats and vintage '50s kitsch vases add girly flair. **VIVA LAS VEGAS** Rubber Elvis figurines, feathered boas, lipstick-motif drinking glasses and lots of glitzy candlesticks take guests on a trip to Vegas. The 12-seater table is balanced by an equally impressive contemporary chandelier. **BEACH PARTY** Water-motif wrapping paper, plastic mini muscle men, sand, shells and lanterns set the tone for this beach-themed table. "You should have as much fun with the table as you can," says Julie. "I'm always scouring dollar stores for ideas." →





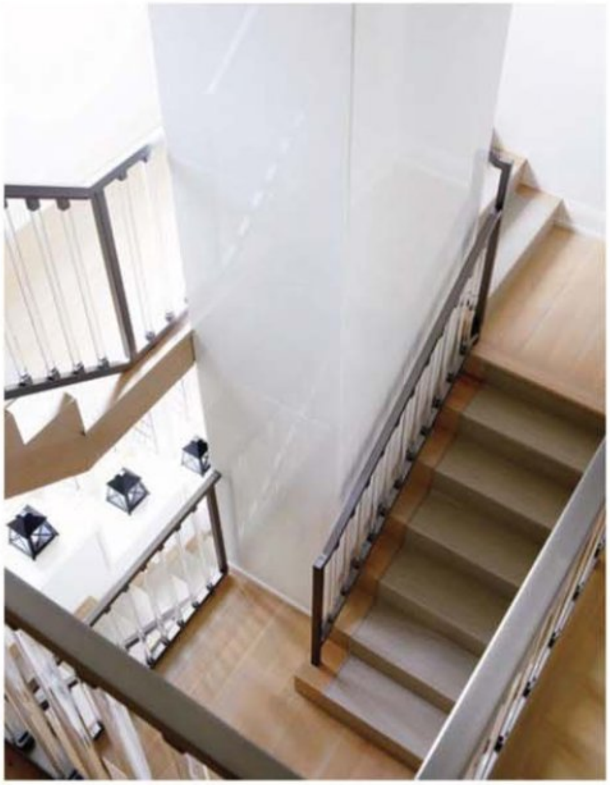
As in many family homes these days, every room in the Albert house is designed to be lived in and used. "We didn't want any rooms to be cordoned off from our kids or our parties," says Julie, mom to three preteens – two girls and a boy. "Usually we start in the living room, then move to the kitchen/dining room and finish off in the den. By the end of the night, every room has been used." Working with Toronto-based designer Kristi Morrison, Julie learned how to mix custom pieces and creative finds. The result is sophisticated, decluttered spaces full of breathtaking art and whimsical touches, like rhinestone skulls. →

MASTER BEDROOM A Moroccan-style lamp adds sparkle and pattern and picks up on the colour of the drapes. The cube bedside table offers compact storage and display space.
SUNROOM White furnishings and aquamarine and emerald accessories add up to a fresh vibe in this family hangout. "We live and lounge here," says Julie. "I can't peel my girls off the sofa."
SERENE SCENE A Buddha surrounded by flowers and candles creates a calming, meditative vignette in the sunroom.



"When it comes to my decor, it's not a question of coping with a white scheme. I made a conscious decision not to care. **If something gets dirty, I'll clean it"** JULIE ALBERT, OWNER







Hard to believe that with an all-white scheme, martinis, M&M's and sticky hands are really allowed to go anywhere. Says Julie, "I admit I designed a craft room in the basement for the kids and told them there are no rules downstairs, so to go wild." But she adds, "I have zero concerns about the furniture upstairs getting dirty. Why else would I have a bowl of candy in every room?" In a further revelation, she says, "I love candy, art and toys – they add to the fun. I guess that explains the Elvis dolls on my dining table and why I love to entertain so much."

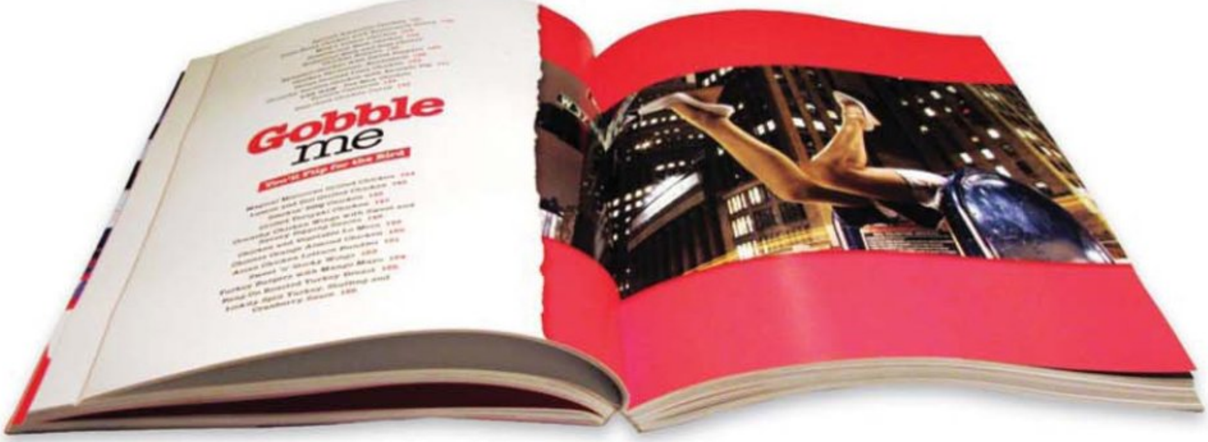
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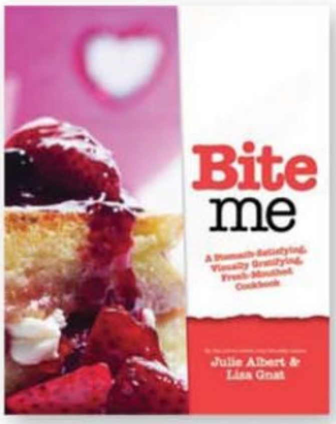
STAIRCASE The multilevel stairway features white oak with a silver/whitewash finish, clear acrylic spindles and brushed-steel banisters, all of which contribute to its light, open feel. Woven runners and lanterns lend a California-style touch. **HOME OFFICE** In this streamlined workspace, it's all about being clutter free. The white scheme is grounded by touches of black in accessories like the framed photographic art on the wall and Julie's desk chair. Books and art above her desk add a pinch of colour. It was the ideal place to work on *Bite Me*.



"My sister, Lisa, and I aren't celeb chefs. **There's no mushroom foam in our cookbook,** just a bunch of fabulous recipes" JULIE ALBERT, OWNER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL CHMIELOWIEC (OFFICE, DOLL DETAIL)





BITE ME by Julie Albert and Lisa Gnat, $30, Pinky Swear Press, softcover, 272 pages. There are no complicated recipes in this fun collection of easy-to-make comfort food, which includes Mona Lisa's Fontina and Arugula Pizza, Pecan-Crusted Lime Chicken and Enchanted Coconut Layer Cake. Features playful photos and the sisters' tongue-in-cheek style, which adds spice to the mix. Available in bookstores in October and online at bitemecookbook.com.

– JENN HOULIHAN

SUPERCAL...ISTIC STICKY FRENCH TOAST WITH CANDIED RICE KRISPIES

This easily assembled decadent French toast soufflé soaks overnight and is finished by topping it with candied Rice Krispies, drizzling it with caramel sauce and baking it to a golden dome.

CANDIED RICE KRISPIES

½ cup granulated sugar

2 tbsp water

4 cups Rice Krispies cereal

FRENCH TOAST

2 egg breads (challahs), crusts left on and cubed (approximately 14 cups)

1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese, softened

6 large eggs

1½ cups milk

½ cup half-and-half cream

½ cup maple syrup

1 tsp vanilla extract

CARAMEL TOPPING

1½ cups packed brown sugar

½ cup butter

3 tbsp corn syrup

Candied Rice Krispies: In large pot (deep with a wide bottom), bring sugar and water to a boil over medium heat. Boil for 1 minute without stirring. Stir in cereal and cook over medium heat just until golden, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and pour onto baking sheet to cool. They can be stored in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

French Toast: Coat 9" x 13" baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. Place bread in dish.

Place cream cheese in large bowl. Using electric mixer, beat cream cheese at medium speed until smooth. Add one egg at a time, mixing well after each addition and scraping down sides of bowl with spatula. Whisk in milk, half-and-half, maple syrup and vanilla until incorporated and smooth. Pour over bread cubes to moisten evenly, pressing lightly to submerge bread. Cover and refrigerate for at least 8 hours or up to 24 hours.

Once ready to bake, remove baking dish from refrigerator and preheat oven to 350°F.

Caramel Topping: In small saucepan, combine brown sugar, butter and corn syrup. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until well combined, for about 2 minutes. Pour over French toast and cover with candied Rice Krispies. Place baking dish on rimmed baking sheet and bake until puffed and golden, 40 to 45 minutes. **Makes 8 servings**



RECIPE TEST | BY JANE FRANCISCO

"I first tasted this dish in Julie's kitchen. It was decadently delicious. I decided to make it for brunch the next weekend. I shopped for ingredients in MacTier, Ont. With no challah in sight, I got a French stick and a 12-grain loaf instead (tasty way to get fibre). I didn't notice overnight soaking was required till I was half done. My guests were setting the table and sipping OJ. Oops! I plowed ahead. Once the bread was covered, I pushed it down with a spatula for maximum immersion. I let it sit while I made the topping (sans corn syrup) and cut up fruit. Even with just a mini-soak, the French toast turned out perfectly! My half-and-half mix of white and multigrain was light and smooth, it puffed up beautifully – and the candied Rice Krispies were a hit!"

formal vs. casual

Thanks to smart design, this open-concept kitchen in the family's country home is ideal for all occasions – both mom Linda's sit-down parties and daughter Devin's relaxed buffets

By Christy Wright | Photography by Virginia Macdonald



MOTHER-DAUGHTER AUTHORS Ace Bakery cofounder Linda Haynes and daughter Devin Connell prepare dinner at the family's country home in Caledon, Ont. The two collaborated on the cookbook *Two Dishes,* which showcases their common passion for food. "We spent eight months – nine to five, Monday to Friday – testing recipes and writing," says Linda, "then seven months going through the photography, editing and layout process."



LEMON-SCENTED POTATO,
DILL AND BACON SOUP



for formal dining
The partition is pulled down to conceal the kitchen, turning the edge of the island into a serving sideboard.

modern classics
With their timeless lines, Linda's reupholstered 1940s French chairs perfectly suit the pared-down space. The antique Persian rug adds a layer of warmth to the birch-lined room.

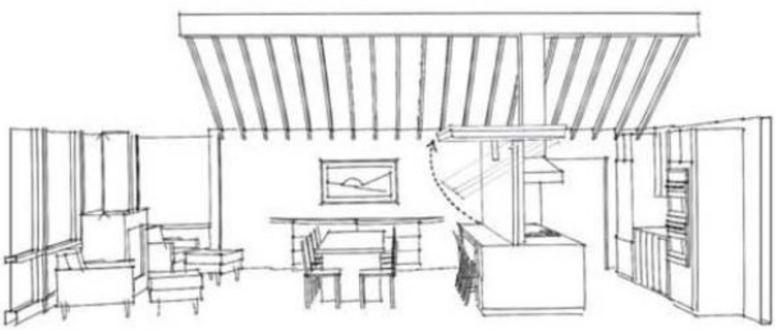
ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT ROGERS





ROOM DIVIDER Although Linda wanted an open design for the kitchen and dining room, she also wanted the option of closing off the kitchen for formal occasions. Architect Jack Diamond came up with an ingenious solution. The birch-covered partition – as wide as the island – acts like a drop ceiling that can be pulled down, garage door style, before guests arrive. Linda's table is elegant with crisp runners laid crosswise, white china and vases of calla lilies and freesia. **WOODLAND VIEW** Linda and husband Martin (also official recipe taster!) enjoy drinks in the seating area of the dining room. Floor-to-ceiling windows showcase the Caledon woods. "We worked with our old friend, architect Jack Diamond, to create a house that looks as though it's been dropped into this site, with the meadows and forests coming right up to the living area," says Linda. **CLASSIC WHITE** When it comes to setting the table, Linda says, "I gravitate toward white china and leave the colour to the food and flowers."

Many different styles exist under the umbrella of entertaining, but when Linda Haynes and her daughter, restaurateur Devin Connell, discuss it, two adjectives frequently recur: "comfortable" and "relaxed." It's an approach that permeates their new cookbook, *Two Dishes: Mother and Daughter – Two Cooks, Two Lifestyles, Two Takes* (McClelland & Stewart, October 2009), from its smile-inducing chapter titles ("Rise and Shine," "Good Eats for Bad Days") to its helpful hints and anyone-can-do-this candour. "Devin and I give two takes on most recipes so the reader will





for informal dining The birch-covered partition stays up so Devin can chat with guests as they serve themselves and help out.

OPEN-CONCEPT DESIGN Devin and boyfriend Darcy Morris finish dinner prep at the granite-top island. It's "essentially a galley kitchen," says Linda, so smart storage was key to keeping it streamlined and clutter free. "I relied on interior designer Doug Gill, who was instrumental in making it workable." Doug added features like a double-decker cutlery drawer – a top panel slides back and forth on a track, providing twice the space. He also incorporated deep drawers with angled dividers for pot lids and extra-wide drawers for linens.



extra storage Tucked beneath the island is shelving hidden behind sliding doors. It's ideal for small vases and candlesticks.


SESAME CHICKEN
WITH MANGO SALSA





"Food was never considered fuel in our house. It was always a point of **pleasure, conversation and fun"** DEVIN CONNELL, CO-AUTHOR

DESSERT BY THE HEARTH The living room fireplace, which was built with stones from the property, is a cosy place to gather for dessert and drinks. Devin, her boyfriend, Darcy, her brother Luke and a guest enjoy Whipped Cheesecake Mousse (see page 148). **INFORMAL BUFFET** Made from one large piece of salvaged mahogany, the dining table serves as a buffet for Devin's get-togethers. It's beautiful with just a runner and a casual arrangement of cut branches.

have a choice," says Linda. "We're hoping to convince people that it's fun and creative to cook and eat together."

They should know. In addition to founding Ace Bakery with husband Martin Connell, Linda penned two cookbooks of her own before teaming up with Devin, who studied culinary arts at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. Credentials aside, this mother-daughter duo lives and breathes food. "Devin made cakes when she was little," says Linda, "and sold her cookies to the local health food store at 10." Linda attributes her own passion for food to her mother, who was a wonderful hostess. "When I was growing up, our door was always open to guests, the food was delicious and the conversation interesting," she says.

Linda continues that legacy with her signature entertaining style. "I prefer small dinner parties. No more than 10 people – that's how great conversations begin," she says. She always plans menus in advance. "I write out all the ingredients, then check with the grocery store to make sure they'll have any unusual

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"Try to have an hour to yourself before guests arrive. **You'll enjoy the party and your guests so much more"** LINDA HAYNES, CO-AUTHOR

ones. If not, I revise the menu." She prefers a structured flow to the evening. "I usually start with drinks in the living room, followed by a sit-down dinner, then move back to the living room for coffee or more drinks." In the country, she tends to be less formal and has put a new spin on how she serves appetizers: "I set out a platter with gravlax, homemade blini, herbed crème fraîche and caviar for people to help themselves. It's luxe, but casual and communal at the same time. You could do the same with cured meats, artisanal mustards, pickles and baguette."

While the communal angle is new to Linda, it defines Devin's get-togethers. "I love including friends in the cooking and always do family style because it's more engaging and relaxed," she says. Her signature? "Start with bubbles! A $15 bottle of Prosecco makes people just as happy as a $150 bottle of vintage champagne. There's something about the pop of the cork and the glasses that makes the evening special." Her take on appetizers is just as refreshing. "I like serving radishes with sweet butter and sea salt," she says. "It might sound strange, but you see it all over France, and it tastes absolutely fantastic."

Whereas her mom plans in advance, Devin gets inspired in the moment, while walking through markets or food stores. "My time in Paris instilled in me the importance of fresh ingredients," says Devin. "The French shop for food every day, and I love to do that, too."

For both Linda and Devin, *Two Dishes* was a labour of love. "We had a lot of fun, and as mother and daughter, we did have our moments," says Linda. Devin concurs: "It can be hard working full time with your mom, but ultimately it was a fantastic experience. I think we both have a new respect for our different perspectives and for each other." →

entertaining style

We quizzed the mom-and-daughter authors about their takes on last-minute entertaining and memorable parties.

APPETIZER IN MINUTES

DEVIN Fork-mashed cannellini beans with olive oil, lemon and garlic on toasted baguette or crackers.

LINDA Oven-warmed salted cashews, and olives tossed in olive oil, minced garlic and lemon and orange zest.

LAST-MINUTE NONFLORAL CENTREPIECE

DEVIN A tightly packed row of votives.

LINDA A shallow bowl heaped with lemons or green apples and lots of low candles.

MOST MEMORABLE PARTY

DEVIN My 25th birthday. It was a Mexican fiesta with 100 guests. We had fortune tellers, piñatas, singers, and the best part was the homemade churros with dulce de leche.

LINDA A family birthday party in Jamaica that lasted a week.

NO-BAKE DESSERT

DEVIN Strawberry shortcake! Buy a pound cake and slice thick pieces. Toast lightly and top with whipped cream, sliced strawberries and vanilla ice cream. Heaven.

LINDA Thinly sliced pineapple rings, sprinkled with chopped fresh mint and pomegranate seeds.

LAST-MINUTE ENTERTAINING IS AS FUN AS...

A. a blind date

B. grocery shopping on a tight budget

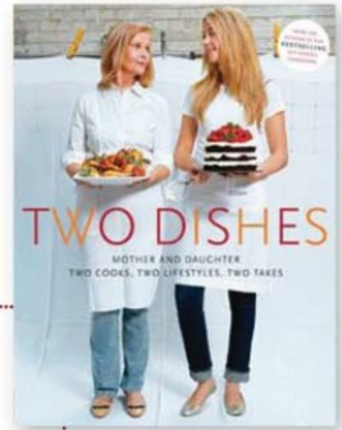
C. riding a roller coaster

DEVIN A. You never know what's going to happen!

LINDA C. You know that feeling in the pit of your stomach?

UNEXPECTED GUESTS

DEVIN & LINDA Soft lighting and a drink will take the edge off impromptu entertaining.



TWO DISHES: MOTHER AND DAUGHTER – TWO COOKS, TWO LIFESTYLES, TWO TAKES by Linda Haynes and Devin Connell ($30, McClelland & Stewart). For recipes from the book, turn to page 142.

RECIPES AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM *TWO DISHES: MOTHER AND DAUGHTER – TWO COOKS, TWO LIFESTYLES, TWO TAKES*. FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUGLAS BRADSHAW. COURTESY OF MCCLELLAND & STEWART

"If you mix good friends with new acquaintances and make sure your guests are **served drinks as soon as they arrive, you can't go wrong**" LINDA HAYNES, CO-AUTHOR

the recipes

From their new cookbook, *Two Dishes*, Linda Haynes and Devin Connell have each picked a favourite menu for fall entertaining.

LINDA

FISH CHOWDER

"Devin's potato soup [recipe follows] is the perfect base for hearty fish chowder," says Linda.

Lemon-Scented Potato, Dill and Bacon Soup (below)
8 oz cleaned, deveined jumbo shrimp (about 12)
8 oz halibut, cut in 1" cubes
12 clams, cooked separately (optional)

Bring finished soup to low boil. Add shrimp and halibut. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes or until seafood is tender. Add cooked clams (if desired) and heat through. **Makes 6 to 8 servings**

DEVIN

LEMON-SCENTED POTATO, DILL AND BACON SOUP

"This creamy soup is very accessible," says Devin. "Just potatoes, dill, lemon and bacon – all ingredients that you can find at your local grocery store."

5 slices bacon, cut in ½" pieces
4 cups chicken stock
2 cloves garlic, chopped
3 large Yukon Gold potatoes (about 1½ lb), peeled and cut in 1" pieces
2 stalks celery, finely chopped
1½ tsp kosher salt
¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
1 tbsp lightly packed grated lemon zest, preferably organic (about 1 medium lemon)
½ cup 35% (whipping) cream
2 tsp lightly packed chopped fresh dill *
1 lemon, cut in wedges, for garnish



Cook bacon in small skillet over medium-low heat for 5 to 7 minutes or until browned and crisp. Drain on paper towel and set aside.

Combine stock, garlic, potatoes, celery, salt and pepper in large pot and bring to low boil. Simmer for 15 to 20 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Remove from heat and purée until smooth. Return pot to stove over medium heat and stir in lemon zest and cream. Simmer for 5 minutes to incorporate flavours. Just before serving, stir in dill. Garnish each bowl with bacon. Serve with a lemon wedge. **Makes 6 servings**

kitchen hint

*** DELICATE DILL Don't add fresh dill to a cooked dish until just before serving. Dill loses its flavour and colour in hot food if it sits for too long.**

Find favourite appetizer recipes from Linda Haynes at **STYLEATHOME.COM/TWODISHES**

CREAMY SOUP TO START Lemon-Scented Potato, Dill and Bacon Soup is delicious on its own or can be turned into special-occasion fare by adding seafood.

LINDA

MOROCCAN-SPICED CORNISH HENS WITH ROASTED ORANGES, ONIONS AND FIGS

"On a family trip to Morocco, we spent hours wandering the souks," says Linda. "Jewelry and silversmith stores caught our eye, but it was in the spice markets that we spent the most time. This was the first meal I cooked when we got home, made with spices we brought back. If you want to use fresh figs instead of dried, add 6 to 8 during the last 10 minutes of cooking and reduce the port to 3 tbsp." See Linda's instructions for butterflying Cornish hens (or other poultry) at the bottom of page 144.

2 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp ground cumin
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
½ tsp ground allspice
½ tsp chili powder
2 tbsp vegetable oil
1 tbsp grated gingerroot
2 tsp grated garlic
4 Cornish hens, butterflied *
12 to 14 dried figs
⅓ cup ruby port
3 cooking onions, sliced ½" thick
3 oranges, unpeeled and sliced ½" thick
6 to 8 sprigs fresh rosemary
1 tsp kosher salt, divided
8 slices bacon, cut in half
½ cup dry white wine
1 tbsp unsalted butter, cold

Combine cinnamon, cumin, pepper, allspice, chili powder, oil, ginger and garlic in small bowl. Rub paste evenly over both sides of Cornish hens and marinate for 30 minutes at room temperature or for up to 8 hours in refrigerator. If refrigerated, let hens come to room temperature before continuing with recipe.

Toss dried figs in port and marinate for at least 1 hour. Drain, reserving marinade.

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Combine onions, oranges, drained figs, rosemary and ¼ tsp salt in lightly oiled roasting pan.

Arrange butterflied hens over fruit and vegetables in one layer. Sprinkle birds with remaining ¾ tsp salt and cover each side of breast and each leg with piece of bacon. Roast hens for 15 minutes. Remove bacon strips and continue to roast hens for 15 to 20 minutes or until juices run clear. Place birds on cutting board and tent with foil.

Transfer fruit and vegetables to dish and keep warm. Place roasting pan on stove over medium-high heat and add wine and 3 tbsp reserved port marinade. Cook, stirring, for 1 to 2 minutes or until syrupy. Remove from heat and stir in cold butter and any accumulated juices from hens. Taste and season with salt and pepper if needed.

Cut each Cornish hen in half along breast bone. Spoon orange-onion mixture onto shallow platter. Place birds on top (and bacon, if you wish) and drizzle glaze over top. Serve 1 or 2 halves per person. **Makes 4 to 8 servings (depending on appetites!)**



DEVIN

SESAME CHICKEN WITH MANGO SALSA

"Mom's Cornish hens [previous recipe] are absolutely gorgeous, but they take a little planning, and finding Cornish hens can sometimes be a bit of a mission," says Devin. "The first time I made this recipe, I defrosted two chicken breasts from my freezer, coated them in sesame seeds, made a quick mango salsa, and dinner was on the table in 25 minutes."

MANGO SALSA
1 large ripe mango, peeled and cut in ½" cubes
1 tsp finely chopped jalapeño, seeds removed
1 tbsp soy sauce
1 green onion, white and light green parts only, finely chopped
2 tbsp lightly packed chopped fresh coriander
1 tbsp lightly packed grated orange zest, preferably organic
¼ cup freshly squeezed orange juice
½ tsp lightly packed grated lime zest, preferably organic
1 tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice
1 tsp kosher salt
1 tbsp liquid honey (optional)

SESAME CHICKEN
2 large egg whites
½ cup white sesame seeds
1½ tsp kosher salt
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
4 boneless, skinless single chicken breasts (each about 6 oz)
1 tbsp unsalted butter
1 tbsp vegetable oil

Mango Salsa: Toss mango, jalapeño, soy sauce, green onion, coriander, orange zest and juice, lime zest and juice, and salt in bowl. Taste and add honey if necessary. Let sit at room temperature while cooking chicken.

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Sesame Chicken: Whisk egg whites in shallow bowl. In another shallow bowl, stir together sesame seeds, salt and pepper.

Pat chicken dry with paper towel and dip each breast into egg whites, making sure to coat them thoroughly. Place each in sesame seed mixture and press to coat evenly on all sides. Set chicken aside.

Heat butter and oil in large ovenproof skillet over medium heat. Add chicken and sear for about 4 minutes, making sure sesame seeds don't burn. Flip chicken and place pan in oven. Cook for 10 to 12 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Cut into ½" slices and serve with large spoonful of salsa. **Makes 4 servings** →

SESAME-COATED CHICKEN "What I love about this dish – other than the fact that it's big-time delicious – is that it looks like something you'd get in a swish restaurant, but your guests will have no idea how easy it was to make," says Devin.

kitchen hint

*** BUTTERFLYING POULTRY Remove the backbone with kitchen shears or a very sharp knife. Cut down one side of the backbone, starting at the cavity between the legs and ending up at the neck. Do the same thing on the other side of the backbone. Discard the backbone, and with the breast side up, press down on the breastbone and flatten the bird against the work surface. (A butcher will also butterfly your birds for you.)**



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PETITE PUDDINGS Linda's make-ahead pumpkin puddings, "scented with a touch of rum and orange zest," are topped with whipped cream and pecan brittle shards.



LINDA

BABY PUMPKIN PUDDINGS WITH CINNAMON WHIPPED CREAM AND PECAN BRITTLE

"I have a confession to make," says Linda. "These delicate baby puddings started life as the filling for my mother's pumpkin pie. But since I don't have Devin's deft hand in the pastry department, I decided to skip the crust and make these sweet little desserts instead. (Though for Thanksgiving dinner, Devin and I work in tandem and turn out a pie that would make Mom proud.) The puddings can be made a day ahead and refrigerated, but bring them to room temperature before garnishing and serving." Extra brittle will keep in a closed container for a few days.

PECAN BRITTLE

1½ cups granulated sugar
¾ cup pecan halves (about 3 oz), broken in rough quarters
Pinch kosher salt

PUDDINGS

1 can (14 oz) pumpkin purée (not pumpkin pie filling), about 1¾ cups
¾ cup lightly packed light brown sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon
¾ tsp kosher salt
½ tsp ground ginger
½ tsp ground nutmeg
¼ tsp ground mace
2 large eggs
1½ cups evaporated milk (not condensed) or 18% cream
2 tbsp dark rum
½ tsp lightly packed grated orange zest, preferably organic


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CINNAMON WHIPPED CREAM
½ cup 35% (whipping) cream
½ tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp granulated sugar
⅛ tsp ground cinnamon

Pecan Brittle: Melt half of the sugar in small heavy saucepan over medium-low heat. Once it starts to melt around edge of pan, stir until all sugar has melted. Add remaining sugar and stir until it turns a caramel colour. This could take up to 15 minutes. If you have a candy thermometer, it should register 250°F, just below hard boil. Stir in pecans and salt and quickly pour mixture onto lightly buttered baking sheet. Use lightly oiled spatula to smooth into thin layer (about ¼" thick). Let cool, then break into shards.

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Puddings: Combine pumpkin, brown sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger, nutmeg and mace in large bowl. Whisk together eggs, evaporated milk, rum and orange zest in separate bowl. Stir egg mixture into purée. Divide custard among six ¾-cup ovenproof ramekins and place in roasting pan. Draw tip of small knife across top of custards to break any small bubbles.

Make a bain-marie by pouring warm water into roasting pan until it comes halfway up sides of ramekins. Place piece of foil lightly over top and bake for 45 to 50 minutes or until puddings are barely quivering in the middle. Remove ramekins from oven*, cool on rack and refrigerate, covered, until an hour before serving.

Cinnamon Whipped Cream: Whip cream and vanilla in bowl until soft peaks form. Add sugar and cinnamon. Whip until soft and billowy. Refrigerate until serving.

To serve, top puddings with dollop of whipped cream and shard of brittle. **Makes 6 servings**



NO-COOK DESSERT Devin describes this easy but impressive dessert as "light, airy, creamy, sweet and tangy, all at once."

kitchen hint

✻ NONSLIP TONGS To easily and safely remove ramekins or preserving jars from hot water, wrap elastic bands around the ends of your tongs so the ramekins don't slip.

DEVIN

WHIPPED CHEESECAKE MOUSSE WITH CINNAMON GRAHAM CRACKER CRUNCH

"This cheesecake mousse is simplicity come to life," says Devin. "No cooking required."

8 oz cream cheese, at room temperature
2 cups 35% (whipping) cream, cold, divided
¼ cup sour cream
¼ cup plus 1 tbsp granulated sugar
Seeds of ½ vanilla bean, or 1 tsp vanilla extract
½ cup graham cracker crumbs (about 6 crackers)
¼ tsp ground cinnamon
1 cup finely chopped fresh strawberries (about 14) *
8 sprigs fresh mint, for garnish

With mixer on low, beat cream cheese, ½ cup whipping cream, sour cream, sugar and vanilla in bowl. Increase speed to high and beat until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes.

In separate large bowl with clean beaters, beat remaining 1½ cups whipping cream on high until stiff peaks form. Stir large spoonful of the whipped cream into cream cheese mixture to lighten texture. Add cream cheese mixture back to remaining whipped cream and gently fold in to thoroughly combine.

Combine graham cracker crumbs and cinnamon in small bowl. Using 8 Moroccan tea glasses or small delicate glasses (about ⅔ cup each), place ½ tbsp graham cracker crumbs in bottom of each glass. Top with layer of mousse to fill half of the glass. Add layer of chopped strawberries, then another layer of mousse to come to top of glass. Garnish with remaining crumbs, some chopped strawberries and sprig of mint. Refrigerate for 1 hour before serving. **Makes 8 servings**

kitchen hint

✻ SUBSTITUTE FOR FRESH STRAWBERRIES
When fresh strawberries aren't in season, you can substitute 2 tsp of strawberry jam per serving for the chopped fresh berries.

ANOTHER DEBUT!

Hot on the heels of the *Two Dishes* launch this fall, Devin Connell opens her brand-new café, Delica Kitchen, in midtown Toronto (1440 Yonge St.; delicakitchen.ca). The takeout spot serves up all-natural, healthy fare made with local ingredients.

MOUSEE PHOTOGRAPHY BY VIRGINIA MACDONALD

un grand fromage

Raclette is back! Celebrate this cheesy pastime with a fun and easy party complete with our food and wine suggestions. By Konrad Ejbich

what is raclette? A semi-firm cheese that's rich, slightly nutty and mild, like a cross between Gruyère and Emmenthal (but you won't notice those nuances by tasting it; flavours emerge when raclette is cooked). It's also a meal. In traditional kitchens, *un grand fromage* was cut up and placed on a stand near the fire. As it melted, the raclette would bubble up and run, then diners would take turns scraping the dripping cheese onto boiled potatoes. The verb, *racler,* means "to scrape."

where is it made? Primarily in Switzerland, but also in the Savoie region of France.

where can you buy it? Cheesemongers or delicatessens, and some supermarkets.



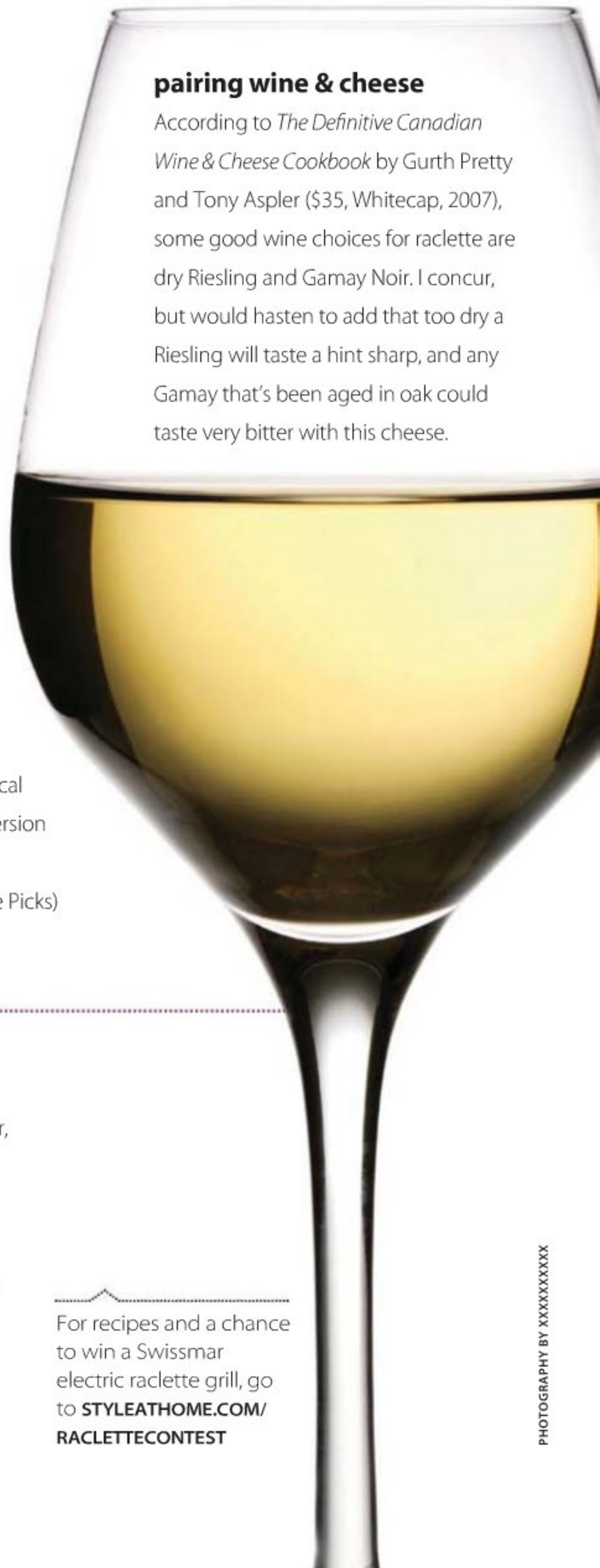
Raclette is a cheese, a verb and a meal

party ingredients

- an electric raclette grill with six or eight individual *coupelles,* or dishes
- boiled or steamed mini-potatoes
- pickled onions, gherkins, other pickled vegetables
- air-dried beef (known as bündnerfleisch), a luxurious addition you may find at your local delicatessen; if not, try bresaola, an Italian version with similar spicing, or prosciutto
- a selection of wines (see My Personal Wine Picks)

pairing wine & cheese

According to *The Definitive Canadian Wine & Cheese Cookbook* by Gurth Pretty and Tony Aspler ($35, Whitecap, 2007), some good wine choices for raclette are dry Riesling and Gamay Noir. I concur, but would hasten to add that too dry a Riesling will taste a hint sharp, and any Gamay that's been aged in oak could taste very bitter with this cheese.



my personal wine picks

Grüner Veltliner, Austria's signature white grape, has a strong whiff of white pepper, light herbal-scented fruit flavours and full-bodied mineral taste. **Winzer Krems Grüner Veltliner $11** allows raclette to play a starring role at the table while providing subtle support by refreshing the palate. If your local wine store has no Grüner, look for other whites that have an element of fruitiness along with high acidity and lightly bitter finish. Try any dry, aromatic Pinot Gris, such as **Leon Beyer $16** from Alsace, France, or **Hawthorne Mountain See Ya Later Ranch Pinot 3 $20** from British Columbia's gorgeous Okanagan Valley. Another team player is Gewürztraminer, like the spicy **Strewn Gewürztraminer $13** or **Strewn Riesling-Gewürztraminer $12** from Ontario's Niagara region.

In red wines, fruitiness and high acidity are critical to achieving the same liveliness with raclette. I adore the bright cherry-strawberry flavours of **Georges Duboeuf Brouilly $17** from France's Beaujolais region. ⊙

For recipes and a chance to win a Swissmar electric raclette grill, go to **STYLEATHOME.COM/RACLETTECONTEST**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY XXXXXXXXX

a slice of heaven

Hosting a buffet? Treat guests to the good stuff – salty-sweet shavings of Italy and Spain's dry-cured hams. By Signe Langford

A chi-chi dinner party in the '70s might have started off with an appetizer of honeydew melon wrapped in ham and a flute of Baby Duck. That was our take on an Italian classic: melon with prosciutto served with Prosecco. Well, prosciutto is ham after all, and Baby Duck does have bubbles. It was rare back then for a North American gourmet to find a purveyor of real prosciutto di Parma, but mercifully times have changed and our tastes have matured. We can thank world travel, Julia Child, James Beard, Food Network and the web for our enlightenment.

Fast-forward to today. Stand at the deli counter in any self-respecting gourmet food shop, and try – just try – to choose from the array of dry-cured hams on offer. Labelled according to their origin, they include Italy's prosciutto di Parma and San Daniele or Spain's Serrano or Ibérico. Prices vary wildly – from $50/kilogram for prosciutto to $60 for Serrano to a jaw-dropping $395 for Ibérico de Bellota.

prosciutto di parma

Parma, Italy. It's the region famous for the king of hard cheeses, Parmigiano Reggiano. But according to Michael Tkaczuk of Serrano Imports in Toronto, its other specialty, prosciutto di Parma, has lost its way in recent years. Worldwide demand has led to a shift from traditional methods to mass production. Still, there are some, like Mario Pingue of Niagara Food Specialities in St. Davids, Ont., who produce it the old-fashioned way: sea salt preserved, air-dried and chemical free.

jamón serrano

Serrano derives its name from the word *sierra,* meaning "mountain" – a feature of the region in Spain where the white pig roams. The animals are fed a blend of cornmeal and grains. Salting time, humidity levels and temperature during the curing process all contribute to the deep red flesh and sweet, rich flavour.

jamón ibérico de bellota

This ham, which comes from the *pata negra,* or black-footed pig, is the best of the best. These free-range porkers pig out on nothing but acorns for the last three months of their lives, which turns their flesh into a nutty, luscious, deeply marbled delicacy. The flavour is beyond compare, and the fat just melts on the tongue.

the right food

The characteristics of each ham invite certain accompaniments. These are specialty food importer Michael Tkaczuk's preferences.

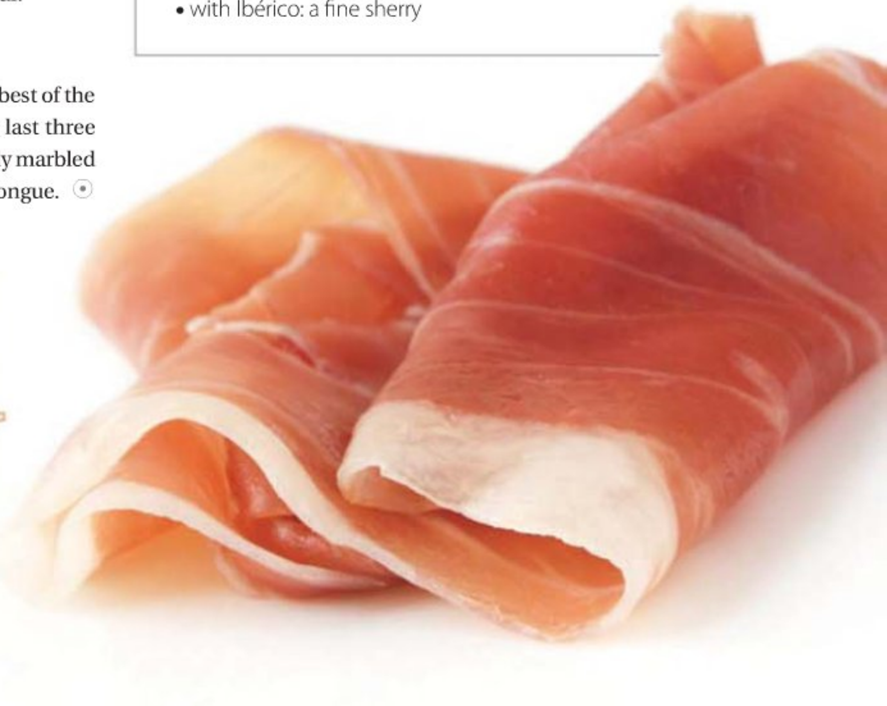
- prosciutto di Parma: enjoy with subtle sweet fruits like melon and apricot, and a piece of Parmigiano Reggiano
- Serrano: serve with figs, dates, peaches, tomato, asparagus
- Ibérico: on its own – you want to fully appreciate this ham's creamy nuttiness as it dissolves on the palate
- with all: crusty bread and good olive oil are a must

the right drink

A special treat like this should be given the respect it deserves. Don't mask cured hams or bury them in heavy sauces. And whatever you do, don't serve the wrong wine! We asked *Style at Home* Wine & Spirits columnist Konrad Ejbich to do a little matchmaking for us. "This stuff is just so good – let it shine," says Konrad. "All you want to achieve with the wine is to reduce the impact of the saltiness and balance some of the fattiness with the right level of acidity." Here are some matches traditional in the regions where the dry-cured hams are produced.

- with prosciutto di Parma: a Pinot Grigio, Pinot Bianco or Prosecco
- with Serrano: a Cava or old-style white Rioja
- with Ibérico: a fine sherry

serving suggestion These hams are so special, so delicate, so ethereal you simply must show them off. A few rosettes of superthin slices, a drizzle of extra-virgin olive oil, some olives and cheese, matched country to country – for example, Spanish ham, Spanish cheese – are all you need.

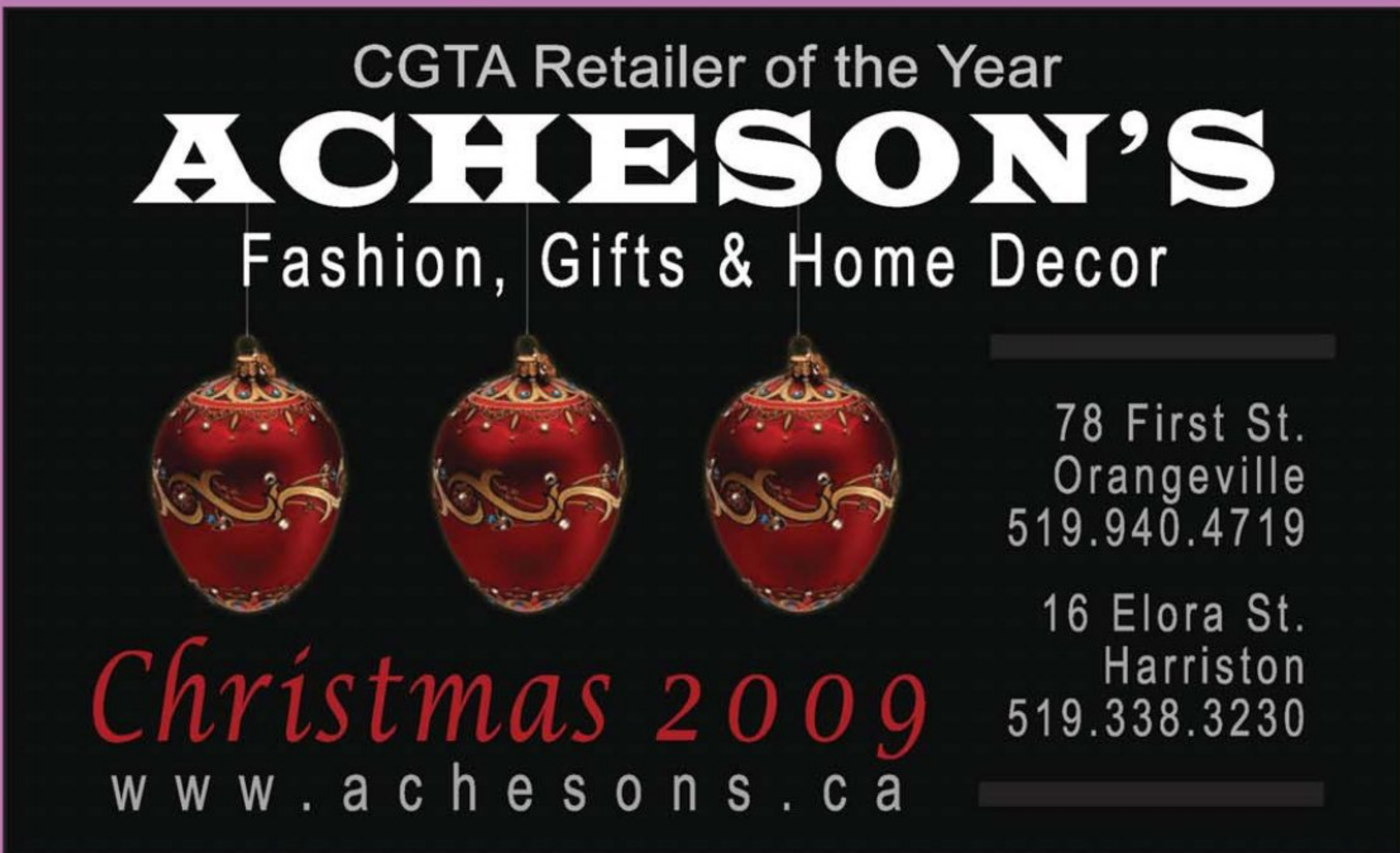



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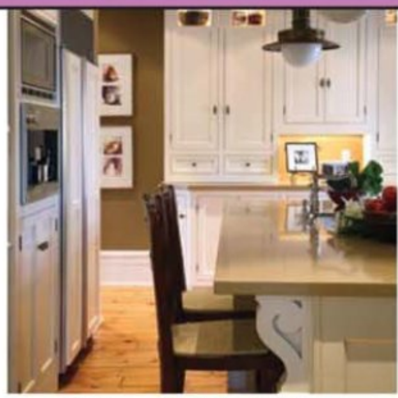
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where to find it



VIRGINIA MACDONALD

To make finding that perfect something easier, here are products and suppliers featured in this issue. Where possible, we've listed toll-free numbers and websites so readers who live outside of city centres still have access to these great products. We've checked the info, but things do change, so verify prices and availability before ordering, and be advised that shipping and handling charges often apply. Non-Canadian sources may also charge exchange rates or additional fees. If an item shown isn't listed, it wasn't possible to track down a source or the product has been discontinued. Due to photography and printing processes, colours shown may differ from actual paint colours. For accuracy, see the paint company colour cards. Happy shopping!

HOME & STYLE: DRESS THIS ROOM

Page 32

Beaded glass **wallcovering:** through designers, Télio, 877-254-9855; telio.com. Holly Hunt **cotton/silk fabric:** through designers, Primavera, Toronto, 416-921-3334; primavera.ca. **Braid trim** with teardrop crystals: Reid & Lyons, Toronto, 416-966-4311; reidandlyons.com. **Paint:** Tapestry Beige OC-32, Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898; benjaminmoore.ca. Calacatta marble **mosaic tile:** Ciot, Toronto, 800-387-5640; Montreal, 800-361-0869; ciot.com. Clarence House **bemberg/cotton fabric:** through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, 800-535-3258; leejofa.com.

SMALL-SPACE CHANGEUP

Pages 50 to 54

Design: *Pure Design*, hgtv.ca/puredesign. **Floral arrangements:** Teatro Verde, 888-483-2876; teatroverde.com. LIVING AREA Schumacher Imperial Trellis **wallpaper** in Silver: through designers, Bilbrough & Co., 800-563-5716, bilbroughs.com; installation, Nagy's Decorating and Design, Toronto, 416-835-2042. **Shelving:** construction, Christian Pavey, ReNew Construction, Toronto, 416-726-2594; lumber, The Home Depot, 800-628-0525, homedepot.ca; painting, Christopher Paul Custom Painting and Design, Toronto, 416-605-5489. Torsby **sideboard, frames** (above desk): IKEA, 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Artwork:** Garden series by Tania Love (top and bottom shelves), *Untitled* by Agnieszka Foltyn (second shelf, on left), *Deco Saint* by Erin Vincent (second shelf, centre), *Flutter 1* by Arleigh Wood (second shelf, on right), *Sunlit Commotion* by Sharon Thompson (above sofa), Art Interiors, Toronto, 416-488-3157; artinteriors.ca. **Ottoman:** design, *Pure Design* (see above); fabric, Kukula in Iris, through designers, Robert Allen, 800-363-3020, robertallendesign.com; fabrication and upholstery, JVM Interiors, Markham, Ont., 905-475-7008. **Mirror tray** (on ottoman): Constantine, 866-929-1177; constantineinteriors.com. Bust (on shelf), small **pill box, tall box, wooden souvenir box** (on tray): Angus & Company, Toronto, 416-537-4104; angusandcompany.com. **Louis XV-style chair:** fabric, Brussels Linen in Lilac, Threadcount Textile & Design, 800-963-7590, threadcountinc.com; upholstery, JVM Interiors (see above); Barnaby Charcoal Nickel nailhead trim, Palette Furniture, Woodbridge, Ont., 905-856-0610, palettefurniture.com. Resin tree stump **side table:** AT Design Group, Toronto, 416-323-0323; atdesignhome.com. **Cushions:** fabric, Sperling in Iris, Spiral Path in Sterling, Cojedes in Sterling, Kukula in Iris, Moonlight in Lavender, through designers,



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Robert Allen (see above); sewing, Luxe, Toronto, 416-463-0215; cushion inserts, IKEA (see above). Pine **floor lamp:** Stacaro Home Interiors, Montreal, 514-287-9800; Ottawa, 613-688-1888; Toronto, 416-367-5959; stacaro.com. **Ceiling fan:** The Modern Fan Co., 888-588-3267; modernfan.com. Bigelow Collection Samantha **rug** in Muslin: Carpet One Floor & Home, 800-227-7381; carpetone.ca. Elegant Linen **roller shade** in Ivory Lace: Hunter Douglas Canada, 800-265-8000; hunterdouglas.ca. **Desk:** Craigslist, craigslist.ca. **Desk chair:** HomeSense, 866-466-3707; homesense.ca. KITCHEN **Cabinetry** with Dani doors in Anthracite in matte finish: Artcraft Kitchens, Niagara Falls, Ont., 905-354-5657; artcraftkitchens.com. **Stools:** Henriksdal stools (with backs), IKEA (see above); lacquer, Coventry Gray PGP-169 (custom colour matched to Benjamin Moore's Coventry Gray HC-169), Pro Glo Paints, 866-625-2838, torontopaintstore.com, Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898, benjaminmoore.ca; fabric, Endurance in Pear, through designers, Robert Allen (see above); upholstery, JVM Interiors (see above). **Chandelier:** Lighting Originals, Toronto, 416-781-7232; lightingoriginals.ca. Emma Silvestris for Alessi La Rosa steel **pink bowl** (on countertop): Bergo Designs, bergo.ca. →

8 great guest room essentials FROM PAGE 44

Kit Kemp, London-based design director of Firmdale Hotels, says there's more to making overnight guests feel welcome than a comfy mattress. She shares her must-haves.

1 end-of-bed bench

2 comfy chair for flinging clothes on or for reading (with a good light)

3 small desk for a laptop or for drawing or painting

4 bedside lights (positioned so bulbs aren't visible)

5 soft headboard someone can really lean back on

6 bedskirt that matches the headboard

7 blackout blinds

8 lavender-filled sachet on or near the pillows to aid sleep – MARGOT AUSTIN



STRIPES GALORE Broad striped walls are echoed in a channel-upholstered headboard.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FIRMDALE HOTELS

RESTYLE

Pages 56 to 60

Behr: The Home Depot, 800-628-0525; homedepot.ca. **Benjamin Moore:** 800-361-5898; benjaminmoore.ca. **Craigslist:** craigslist.ca. **Farrow & Ball** (Pointing 2003, on stairway wall and spindles; Lime White 1, on wall): 877-363-1040; farrow-ball.com. **Foamite:** 888-362-6483; foamite.com. **Invu Drapery Co.:** Toronto, 416-481-5273; invudraperyco.com. **Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom:** through designers, 800-535-3258; leejofa.com. **Para Paints:** 800-461-7272; para.com. **Primavera:** through designers, Toronto, 416-921-3334; primavera.ca. **Ralph Lauren Paint:** The Home Depot (see above under Behr listing). **Robert Allen:** through designers, 800-363-3020; robertallendesign.com. **Soft Options Upholstery:** Toronto, 416-465-9131. **Y & Co.** (wool runner): Montreal, 514-287-8998; Toronto, 416-968-7700; ycocarpet.com. →



party flavour

FROM PAGE 88

PRETTY PRESENTATION "Any food would look great on these simple platters – especially the yummy treats I bake for my annual cookie party." LAURIE GRASSI, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

EMMA EARTHENWARE SERVING PLATTERS $55 (13" ROUND), $42 (12½" X 8" OVAL), $58 (16½" X 11" OVAL), POTTERY BARN, POTTERYBARN.CA.



DIVINE WINE "I used to think of Riesling as a pretty sweet wine until I tried this Ontario version from Cave Spring. It's dry, light and very tasty!" SUSAN ROGERS, ART DIRECTOR

CAVE SPRING 2007 VQA DRY RIESLING $14 (750 ML), CAVE SPRING CELLARS, 888-806-9910; CAVESPRING.CA.

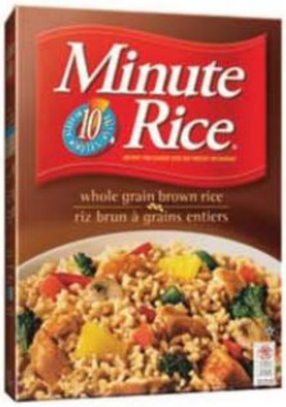


SWEET STACK "The plates detach, and you can vary the height – very clever! Think I'll get more than one for holiday gatherings." JENN HOULIHAN, ASSISTANT EDITOR

IKEA 365+ 13" THREE-TIER SERVING PLATTER $17, IKEA, 866-866-4532; IKEA.CA. MARSHMALLOWS, MACAROONS, ASSORTED SWEETS, NADÈGE, TORONTO, 416-368-2009; NADEGE-PATISSERIE.COM.

TIERED PLATTER PHOTOGRAPHY BY JODI PUDGE

make the kids' lunches, call plumber to fix garburator, clean house before the in-laws visit, buy dog food, put air in exercise ball, check dates on leftovers, find an anniversary present for Tom, pick up some flowers, eat a piece of cake, order lunch for the department, wish a co-worker a happy birthday, collect food for the food drive, shop for new runners, return that ugly shirt, have photos developed, stop by the grocery store, swing by the bank, write a letter to my MP, clean paw prints off the door, schedule sales meeting, replace paper towel roll, finalize sales projections, read the kids bedtime stories, balance the chequebook, dust the coffee table, ship package, organize pantry, switch my purse, feed the fish, charge cellphone, return DVDs, get bids for the roof, check the weather, shred mail, donate old clothes, check email, get the carpet cleaned, complete expense reports, book a flight, dust the ceiling fan, fax contracts, think about ways we could be healthier, call sitter about date night, add photos to scrapbook, email cookie recipe, read Molly's history report, place classified ad, make a chore chart for the kids, replace vacuum cleaner bag, play a game of hide-and-seek, touch up paint on walls, find the good plates, check carbon monoxide detector, find Nana's postal code, buy candy from a neighbour's kid, plan my running route, drop picture off at frame shop, put toys in toy chest, defrag hard drive, sign another school field trip form, change a diaper, RSVP for party, help the kids with their homework, check mailbox, pay bills online, bring some glazed doughnuts to work, read a magazine, find the hamster before the cat does, get printer ink, order some additional business cards, sign for a package,



iron my black shirt, drop kids off at school, fill bird feeder, replace batteries in camera, take kids to swimming lesson, get a haircut, get a manicure, send birthday invitations, take Molly to her ballet lesson, do laundry, find shoe for Molly's doll, clean off desk, drink eight glasses of water, take dog to vet, walk dog, make it to yoga class on Tuesday, put gas in the car, interview job applicants, stretch, make costume for the school play, set alarm for 6:00, change hall light bulb, pick up kids from school, live for today, window-shop, sign up for Pilates classes, drop off dry cleaning, sweep kitchen floor, fill out a performance evaluation, veg out, **We can help.™** read up on current events, take recycling to curb, water indoor plants, sharpen the knives, watch the evening news, multi-task, catch a movie this weekend, watch a TV show, tell kids to use coasters, read next month's book club selection, record TV show, find my umbrella, put toilet paper roll on the right way, drop heels off at the shoe repair place, attend many meetings, spend 20 minutes on treadmill, take a pottery class, revise to-do list, try new toothpaste, plan a healthy dinner, do something about that squeaky door, meet for coffee, read a bunch of emails, check RRSP, play catch-up, polish the silverware, clean chandelier, check car seat, iron my no-iron khakis, give the baby a bath, change another diaper, untangle the electrical cords under the desk, get the fingerprints off the TV, resist the temptation to eat junk food, fluff the sofa cushions, email the boss, get the windows cleaned, enjoy some good family time, drink a cappuccino, reset password for email, think about the long-term effect of sleep deprivation, get annoyed by TV, upload photos of the kids, rummage through attic, forget what I'm looking for, write another to-do list, boil baby bottles, consider the finances, rent a movie, remind Tom about the dripping tap, load dishwasher, develop a winning strategy, recaulk the bathtub, organize my playlists, clean my desk again, rotate the tires, chat at the water cooler, mop the floors, go bowling, surf the Web, look for missing socks, practise public speaking, brush the dog, ask a neighbour about the new neighbour, find the cat, get the baby dressed, sign for another package, laugh at a joke, play with the kids, find new knobs for the chest of drawers, relearn to knit, attend an all-department meeting, unload dishwasher, get the junk out of the car, hope the baby goes to bed easily, **minuterice.ca** explain to Molly how birds fly, get up before the alarm goes off, research our summer vacation, take a walk at lunch, clean crayon drawing of 'Mommy' off wall, finish last Sunday's crossword puzzle, make it to Jake's lacrosse game in time, finish presentation, try deep breathing, condition my hair, worry about a deadline, worry about the kids, worry about the house

DECORATOR'S NOTEBOOK

Pages 66 to 68

Crate and Barrel: 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca. **Homefront:** 800-641-4555; homefrontshop.com. **IKEA:** 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Liv by Au Lit:** Toronto, 416-481-2300; livbyaulit.com. **Simrin:** simrininc.com.

HIGH/LOW

Pages 70 to 73

Apple: 800-692-7753; apple.ca. **Arteriors Home:** 877-488-8866; arteriorshome.com. **Camilla House Imports:** Mississauga, Ont., 905-564-5433. **Chapters** and **Indigo Books & Music:** chapters.indigo.ca. **Constantine:** 866-929-1177; constantineinteriors.com. **Crate and Barrel:** 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca. **The Cross:** 877-689-2902; thecrossdesign.com. **Cynthia Findlay Antiques:** Toronto, 416-260-9057; cynthiafindlay.com. **DeBoer's:** 800-265-2637; deboers.com. **DeSerres:** deserres.ca. **Elte:** 888-276-3583; elte.com. **Eric Farache:** ericfarache.com. **Ethan Allen:** ethanallen.com. **Farrow & Ball:** 877-363-1040; farrow-ball.com. **The Home Depot:** 800-628-0525; homedepot.ca. **HomeSense:** 866-466-3707; homesense.ca. **IKEA:** 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Mokuba:** Toronto, 416-504-5358. **Pottery Barn:** potterybarn.ca. **Sears:** sears.ca. **Structube:** structube.com. **Vintage Printable:** vintageprintable.com/wordpress. **West Elm:** Toronto, 416-537-0110; westelm.com.

ASK US

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Benjamin Moore: 800-361-5898; benjaminmoore.ca. **Crate and Barrel:** 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca.

A SWEET AFFAIR

Pages 76 to 82

Paint: Skimming Stone 241 (table), Slipper Satin 2004 (wall), Pointing 2003 (trim), Farrow & Ball, 877-363-1040; farrow-ball.com. Melanie **drapery panels** in Orchid, Rhapsody custom **table runner** in Orchid: Invu Drapery Co., Toronto, 416-481-5273; invudraperyco.com. **Chair:** Putti Fine Furnishings, 800-649-3120; putti.ca. Kate Spade Larabee Dot crystal **wineglasses,** Leonardo **cake plate,** Waterford Ballet Ribbon **dessert plates:** William Ashley, 800-268-1122; williamashley.com. **Footed dessert dishes:** Crate and Barrel, 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca. Vera Wang for Wedgwood **vase,** Wedgwood Edme **teapot:** Waterford Wedgwood Royal Doulton, 800-268-4040; waterfordwedgwood.ca. Decorative **cupcake wrappers:** Paper Orchid, 866-280-2125; paperorchidstationery.com. **Cushion fabric:** Poetic Plush in Oyster, through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, 800-535-3258; kravetcanada.com. Nut-free **cupcakes** with buttercream flower: The Cupcake Shoppe, Toronto, 416-322-6648; thecupcakeshoppe.ca. **White chocolate cake,** chocolate **shortbread cookies:** All the Best Fine Foods, Toronto, 416-928-3330; allthebestfinefoods.com. **Marshmallows, macaroons:** Nadège, Toronto, 416-368-2009; nadege-patisserie.com. **Fraisier cake:**





Patisserie Patachou, Toronto, 416-927-1105. INVITATIONS Vera Wang Fine Papers Vera **Lace card:** William Ashley (see above). Imprintables IM4042 **purple-pattern floral:** Yellow Bird Paper Greetings, North Vancouver, B.C., 604-980-8215; yellowbirdgreetings.com. Letterpress geometric-pattern fill-in **bridal shower:** William Arthur, williamarthur.com. Lavender **card stock:** Michaels, 800-642-4235; michaels.com. Letterpress **peony:** Pistachio, Toronto, 416-322-9452; epistachio.com. **Zig Zag notecard** in Lavender: Linda & Harriett, Brooklyn, N.Y., 718-789-0307; lindaandharriett.com. Elsa Peretti **pen:** Tiffany & Co., 800-265-1251; tiffany.ca. **Ribbon:** Mokuba, Toronto, 416-504-5358.

TABLE STYLE

Pages 84 to 86

Abbott: 800-263-2955; abbottcollection.com. **Accents de Ville by Linea:** 888-315-4632; adv-imports.com. **AT Design Group:** Toronto, 416-323-0323; atdesignhome.com. **Crate and Barrel:** 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca. **Danica:** danicaimports.com. **Fabricland:** 888-780-0333; fabricland.ca. **HomeSense:** 866-466-3707; homesense.ca. **IKEA:** 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **JacKryn France:** Aurora, Ont., 905-726-3451; jackryn.com. **Marimekko Vancouver:** Vancouver, 604-609-2881; marimekkovancouver.com. **Northdale Trading:** 800-263-3093; northdaletrading.com. **Pottery Barn:** potterybarn.ca. **Rosanna:** Seattle, 206-264-7882; rosannainc.com.

WE LOVE IT!

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Crate and Barrel: 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca. **Kate Spade New York:** 800-519-3778; katespade.com. **Nespresso:** 800-562-1465; nespresso.com. **Rosanna:** Seattle, 206-264-7882; rosannainc.com. **Tivoli/ Lenbrook Canada:** lenbrook.com/tivoli_audio/.

SHIMMER AND SHINE

Pages 90 to 94

Arthur Quentin: 800-303-7513; arthurquentin.com. **Colonial Candle:** 866-445-9993; colonialcandle.com. **DeSerres:** deserres.ca. **Ellen Coopersmith Interiors:**


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for when you're ready to buy
✓See an expert Consider the advantages of going to a specialty flooring store, rather than a store that sells everything from lumber to tools.
Specialty flooring stores know flooring best, & are better prepared to provide you with design ideas & technical advice to make the right decision for your home.
✓Style and Selection Flooring specialists have a far wider variety of today's most fashion forward colours, tones & textures.
✓Get the job done right Installation expertise is another important factor. A bad installation can ruin the look and longevity of your new floor.
For more design tips and information on floor covering, please visit floorsfirst.com or call 1-877-357-7253
Did you know?
Flooring qualifies for the HRTC government tax credit. You can claim a tax credit of 15% on your 2009 income tax return, for new flooring purchased and installed before February 1st, 2010!
FloorsFirst.com/style



tips from celebrated gardener elaine martin

FROM PAGE 116

Repeat an element in your arrangement – for example, a flower, colour or container style – throughout your home for continuity. This creates what Elaine calls "the moss thread."
Play with vibrant hues like blue and coral.
Try teaming cream flowers with cream, taupe, moss green or chocolate-colour pots.
Monochromatic palettes are big. Pick one colour and find flowers in varying shades and sizes.
Lush arrangements feel luxurious and cosy.
Pair a selection of both fully bloomed and yet-to-bloom flowers for a dramatic effect and longer-lasting floral arrangements.
Choose different shades of greenery, depending on your arrangement. For example, in a blue-and-coral palette, opt for blue greys. For cream tones, use yellow- and white-tinted greens, such as incense cedar, magnolia leaves, red pine, coned B.C. cedar and oregonia.
Don't limit the choice of flower colours to ones that match your decor. Make sure colours pick up on an item in a room, even if it's a small accessory. – SEEMA PERSAUD

Vintage Gardener offers classes on how to make the featured arrangements. They're hosting an Evergreen Fair on Nov. 18 and 19, 2009, with partial proceeds going to the new Ronald McDonald House. For info, visit vintagegardener.com.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL CHMIELOWIEC

WIRING PINECONES

Add a seasonal touch to arrangements with an array of pinecones.

HOW-TO Cut an 18" to 24" piece of craft wire and wrap it halfway around the base of a pinecone, tucking the wire under the pinecone petals. Bring the two wire ends together. Hold the wire in one hand, the cone in the other, then twist the cone (not the wire) to secure. Stick wire ends into the floral foam. →

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www.cancer.ca



Westmount, Que., 514-932-7757. **Fauchois Fleurs:** Montreal, 514-844-4417; fauchoisfleurs.com. **HomeSense:** 866-466-3707; homesense.ca. **Masterstroke Canada:** 866-249-7677; masterstrokecanada.com. **Pierre Belvédère:** Essence du Papier, Montreal, 514-874-9915; Toronto, 416-349-7111, ext. 5220; Vancouver, 604-685-7489, ext. 5220; pierrebelvedere.com. **Seasons of Cannon Falls:** 800-377-3355; seasonsofcannonfalls.com.

WHAT A DISH!

Pages 96 to 102

WEST COAST MODERN **Design:** Evoke International Design, Vancouver, 604-875-8667. Corian **countertops:** Contour Countertops, Calgary, 403-250-7272; contourcountertops.com. Fisher Paykel **stove** and **oven:** Midland Appliance, Vancouver, 604-608-0600; midlandappliance.com. La Torre **faucet:** Cantu, Vancouver, 800-910-1252; Victoria, 866-787-1252; cantubathrooms.com. FABULOUSLY FARMHOUSE **Design:** Chantal Boulé, Montreal, 514-484-2199. **Contractor:** Peter Elder, Montreal, 514-502-4853. **Faucet:** IKEA, 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Chandelier, window treatment:** Vie de Campagne, Westmount, Que., 514-484-2199. **Bowls, plates, tea towels:** Arthur Quentin, 800-303-7513; arthurquentin.com. OPEN COUNTRY **Pitcher, covered dish:** Stacaro Home Interiors, Montreal, 514-287-9800; Ottawa, 613-688-1888; Toronto, 416-367-5959; stacaro.com. Grey **bowl, soup tureen, colander, cake plates:** Arthur Quentin (see above). FRENCH TRADITIONAL **Design:** Ellen Coopersmith Interiors, Westmount, Que., 514-932-7757.

PARTY CENTRAL

Pages 106 to 115

Architect: Richard Mann Architect, Oakville, Ont., 905-465-0260. **Builder:** Bachly Construction, Oakville, Ont., 905-842-6663; bachly.com. **Furniture, light fixtures, mirrors, rugs:** House Warmings, Oakville, Ont., 905-339-0202; housewarmings.ca. **Paint:** China White 33-8 (walls in dining room, kitchen, hallway, family room), Manchester 29-27 (walls in living room), Minnow 28-25 (walls in master bedroom, bath), Pratt & Lambert, 877-772-8898; prattandlambert.com. KITCHEN Slate **floor tile,** marble **countertops,** subway **backsplash tile:** The Classic Tile Centre, Oakville, Ont., 905-844-7941. MASTER BATHROOM Raven **shower fixtures** and floor-mounted **tub filler with hand shower:** The Rubinet Faucet Company, 800-461-5901; rubinet.com. Marble **countertop,** floor and shower **tile:** The Classic Tile Centre (see above).

LUSH BLOOMS

Pages 116 to 119

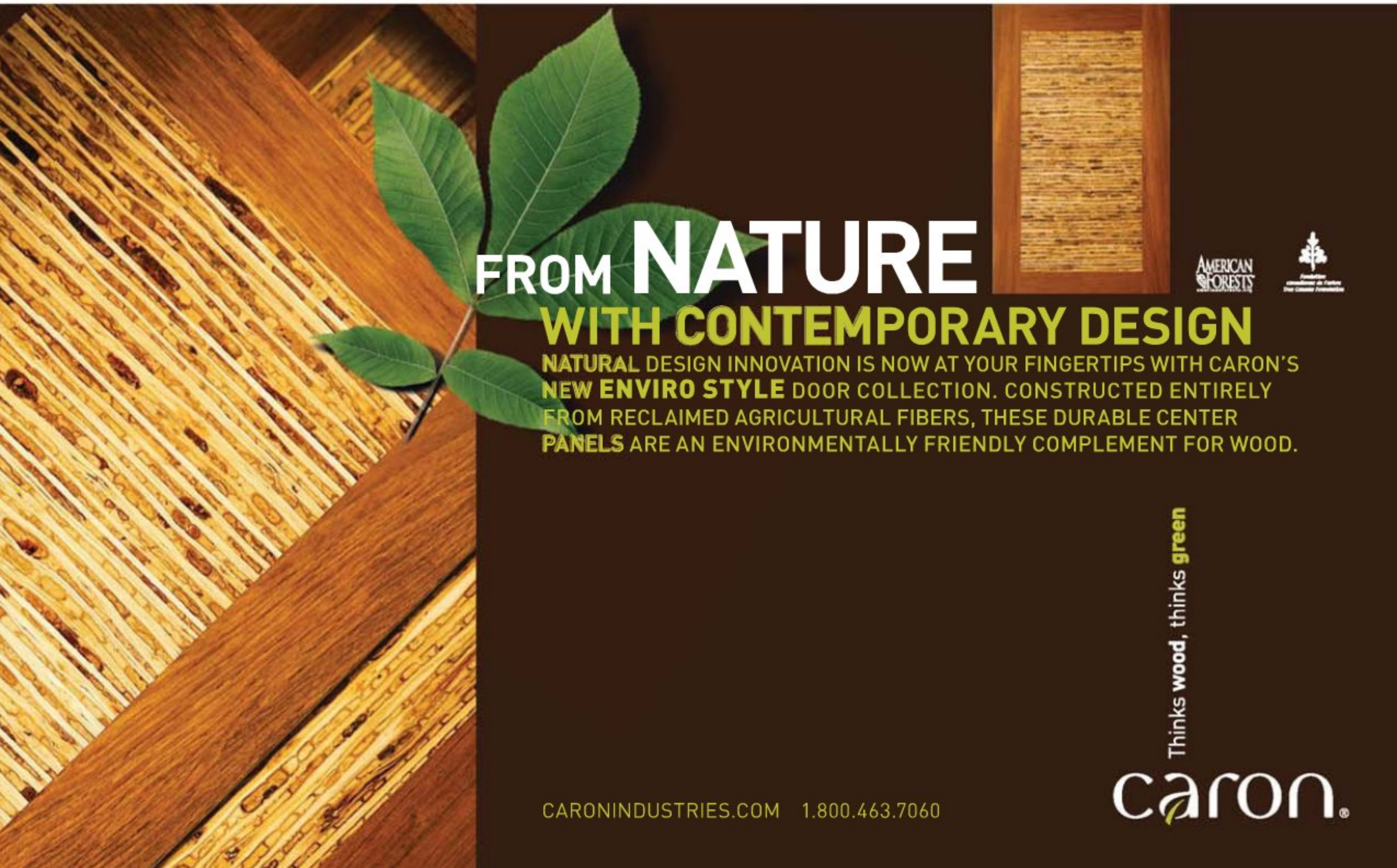
Floral arrangements, flowers, greenery, pots, accessories: Vintage Gardener, Toronto, 416-364-6232; vintagegardener.com. **Location:** The Fermenting Cellar, Toronto, 416-364-1177; fermentingcellar.ca.

FAMILY FUNHOUSE

Pages 120 to 131

Design: Kristi Morrison Interiors, Toronto, 416-968-5987; Dubbeldam Design

Architects, Toronto, 416-913-6757, dubbledamarchitects.com. **Builder:** Den Bosch + Finchley, Toronto, 416-922-4249; denbosch.ca. Engineered white oak **flooring** with Metallic Silver stain in pearlized finish: The Rose Wood Flooring, Toronto, 416-633-5757; rosewoodflooring.com. LIVING ROOM **Custom sofas,** green **cushions,** silver **bench,** dark grey pinstripe **chairs:** through designers, Louis Interiors, Toronto, 416-785-9905; louisinteriors.com. **Coffee table:** Art Shoppe, Toronto, 416-487-3211; theartshoppe.com. **Artwork:** *Hat + 5 Roses* by William Klein (behind sofa, on left), *Givenchy Hat B* by Frank Horvat (behind sofa, on right), Michael Hoppen Gallery, London, England, 020-7352-3649, michaelhoppengallery.com; *Long Plage, Calais* by David Burdeny (above mantel), davidburdeny.com. DEN **Custom sofa,** pink **cushions,** grey **ottoman:** through designers, Louis Interiors (see above). Bleached mango wood **apple and pear sculptures:** L'Atelier, Toronto, 416-966-0200. HALLWAY Minicrystal **glass wall slab** in white: CB Marble Craft, Toronto, 416-741-1585. **Photograph:** *Lake Huron, Craigleith #1, 2002* by Robert Burley, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto, 416-504-0575; bulgergallery.com. KITCHEN Glenn **stools:** IKEA, 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Pendant lights:** Eurolite, Toronto, 416-203-1501; eurolite.com. DINING ROOM **Custom chairs:** through designers, Louis Interiors (see above). **Photograph:** *L.A. County Fire Dept. Bell 412EP Helicopter* by Jeffrey Milstein, jeffreymilstein.com. GIRLS' NIGHT IN Flower **napkin rings:** Homefront, 800-641-4555; homefrontshop.com. Grass **pen stand:** Rolo, 877-765-6438; rolostore.com. VIVA LAS VEGAS Soria reversible black **placemats:** Crate and Barrel, 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca. Bendable Elvis **dolls:** Rolo (see above). Skimmer **candlesticks,** IKEA 365+ **glasses:** IKEA (see above). **Playing cards:** Pier 1 Imports, 800-245-4595; pier1.ca. **Play money:** Dollarama, 888-755-1006; dollarama.com. Diamant clear large plastic **diamonds:** Michaels Stores, 800-642-4235; michaels.com. BEACH PARTY Plastic **goldfish**, wind-up **beach boys:** Rolo (see above). Rajtan **spice jars** (used as fishbowls): IKEA (see above). White Riverstone **placemats:** L'Atelier (see above). **Wrapping paper:** Michaels Stores (see above). HOME OFFICE **Custom desk, shelves:** Caledon Woodworks, Cheltenham, Ont., 905-846-0970; caledonwoodworks.com. **Chair:** Herman Miller, hermanmiller.com. Lacquered **wastebasket:** Jonathan Adler, 877-287-1910; jonathanadler.com. SUNROOM **Custom sofa:** through designers, Louis Interiors (see above). Sophie Conran for Portmeirion **bowl:** Homefront (see above). STAIRCASE White oak





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stairs in silver/whitewash finish: Royal Oak Railing & Stair, Newmarket, Ont., 905-853-5727; royaloakstair.ca. Brushed-steel **banisters**, clear acrylic **spindles:** design, Kristi Morrison Interiors and Dubbeldam Design Architects (see above); fabrication, Art Smithing, Toronto, 416-742-3312. Actua metallic woven nylon **carpet runner:** through designers, The Sullivan Source, Toronto, 800-805-7208; Vancouver, 604-253-6343; sullivansource.com. Minicrystal **glass wall slabs** in white: CB Marble Craft (see above). MASTER BEDROOM **Custom bed:** through designers, Louis Interiors (see above).

FORMAL VS. CASUAL

Pages 132 to 148

Architect: Diamond and Schmitt Architects, Toronto, 416-862-8800; dsai.ca. **Design:** Douglas Gill Ltd., Toronto, 416-920-7304. **Cabinetmaker:** through designers, Bez Industries, Waterloo, Ont., 519-579-3880. **Contractor:** Orangeville Carpentry, Orangeville, Ont., 519-942-7221. **Windows:** Tradewood Windows & Doors, 800-410-0268; tradewoodindustries.com. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM Wolf **stove,** Miele **wall oven,** Sub-Zero **fridge:** Tasco Distributors, Toronto, 416-781-9145; tasco.net. **Stools:** Kiosk Dupont, Toronto, 416-539-9665; kioskdesign.com. Cream **table runners:** Elte, 888-276-3583; elte.com. Linen **napkins:** 18 Karat Home Store, 888-849-8811; eighteenkarat.com. **Plates:** Arthur Quentin, 800-303-7513; arthurquentin.com. LIVING ROOM Christian Liaigre at Holly Hunt **coffee table:** Holly Hunt, New York, 212-755-6555; hollyhunt.com. **Sofa, chairs:** Douglas Gill Ltd. (see above).

WINDOW SHOPPING

Page 180

Crate and Barrel: 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca. **Danesco:** 877-326-3726; danescoinc.com. **Northdale Trading:** 800-263-3093; northdaletrading.com. **William Ashley:** 800-268-1122; williamashley.com. **Williams-Sonoma:** williams-sonoma.ca.

tantalizing tureen

FROM PAGE 180

SCULPTURAL SOUP TUREEN

Jardin du Monde $625 US, Juliska, Stamford, Conn., 203-316-9118; juliska.com.



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soupe du jour

Ladle luscious bisque, hearty chowder or soul-warming stew from a shapely white tureen

By Ann Marie Favot



1 Jasper Conran $465, William Ashley. **2** Footed $50, with ladle $9, Crate and Barrel. **3** Lion's Head $214, Williams-Sonoma. **4** Maxwell & Williams White Basics with ladle $45, Northdale Trading. **5** Sophie Conran $60, William Ashley. **6** Lyon $38 (with ladle, not shown), Danesco.

For another sculptural tureen, turn to **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160**

STACEY VAN BERKEL-HAINES